Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-235
Wednesday
7 December 1994

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-235 *7 December 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Delegations Begin Talks 1
Israeli Delegation Arrives *[MENA]* 1
Israelis View PA's Condition *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
Sha'th on 'Difficult Negotiations' *[MENA]* 1
Israel, 4 Arab States Decide To Form Regional Body *[HA'ARETZ 6 Dec]* 2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Nov 2
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 29 Nov 4
ICO Bosnia Contact Group Meets in Geneva *[Ankara TV]* 4
ICO Ready To Send Islamic Forces *[Tehran Radio]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Reportedly Resigns From PA Post *[AL-MANAR 5 Dec]* 5
Al-Nashashibi on Trade Agreements Reached With EU *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Five Fatah Wounded in Firing Between Rival Factions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
PLO's al-Surani: Fatah, Hamas Reach Agreements *[MENA]* 5
Hamas Said To Recognize PA 'Until Elections' *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Dec]* 6
Islamic Jihad Leader Expects Escalation of Attacks *[AL-'AHD 25 Nov]* 6
U.S. Urged To Play 'Fair Sponsor' Role in Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Cuban Foreign Minister Conducts Two-Day Visit 8
Makes Arrival Statement *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Holds Talks With Dembri *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Dembri, Tunisia's Yahya Discuss CSCE Stance *[Algiers Radio]* 8
FIS Urges CSCE To Pressure France *[Paris International]* 8
Bouhad, Threat of 'Suicide' Attacks Discounted *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Dec]* 8
S[illegible] Forces Eliminate 'Terrorists' 9
[illegible]en Killed 3-4 Dec *[Algiers Radio]* 9
[illegible]n Killed 5 Dec *[Algiers Radio]* 9
[illegible]ailbreak Leader Killed *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Transitional National Council Discusses Budget *[Algiers Radio]* 9
EU Grants Loan To Bolster Balance of Payments *[Algiers Radio]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Conference To Focus on Common Border Issues *[IRNA]* 10

Kuwait

POW Committee Says Iraq Acknowledged 11 Names *[KUNA]* 10
Country Said Seeking 'Good Relations' With Iran *[London AL-HAYAH 3 Dec]* 10

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Approves Action Against 'Terrorism' *[SPA]* 11
Papers View Mideast Peace Moves, Bosnia, Iran *[SPA]* 11

IRAQ

UN Envoy Calls Kuwait Invasion 'Regrettable' *[Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET 4 Dec]* 12
Official Urges Arabs To Resume Trade Exchanges *[INA]* 13
Committee Begins Meetings on Cooperation With Sudan *[INA]* 13
Saddam Receives Cable From Palestinian Faction Head *[INA]* 13
Saddam Addresses Cabinet Session on Industrial Sector *[INA]* 13
Saddam Orders Exploitation of Agricultural Lands *[AL-THAWRAH 23 Nov]* 14
Saddam Orders Funding for al-Basrah Projects *[AL-THAWRAH 23 Nov]* 14

ISRAEL

Christopher Arrives; Rabinovich Views Syrian Track *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 15
Rabin on Meeting With Christopher *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Poll Shows 70 Percent Against U.S. Troops on Golan *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Dec]* 15
Peres Interviewed on Syrian, Palestinian Tracks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Beilin: AIPAC Criticism Sabotages PA Funding *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Orient House Guards Detained by Jerusalem Police *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Dec]* 17
Some 150 Palestinian Ex-Prisoners Allowed To Return *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Citizenship Granted to 618 Palestinian Collaborators *[MA'ARIV 5 Dec]* 17
Petitions on West Bank Construction 'Freeze' Rejected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Group Claims Arab Land Used for Jewish Housing *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Dec]* 18
Editorial Views Government Attitude Toward 'Arafat *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Dec]* 18
German President Herzog Meets Rabin, Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Rabin on Tokyo's Aid to PA, DPRK Missiles *[Tokyo KYODO]* 19
Gur on Iranian Purchase of Nodong Missiles *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
Rabin Initiates Legislation To Regulate Shin Bet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Shin Bet Arrests Over 20 Suspected Hamas Members *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 20
Coalition MK's Threaten To Join No-Confidence Vote *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
No-Confidence Motions Submitted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Poll Gives Netanyahu 2% Edge Over Rabin *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Dec]* 21

JORDAN

King Husayn Meets With Israel's Netanyahu 22
TV Interviews Leaders *[Amman TV]* 22
Damascus Reports on Meetings *[Damascus Radio]* 23
Paper Says Israeli Mission To Intensify Intelligence *[AL-MAJD 5 Dec]* 23
'High-Ranking' Palestinians Arrive for Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Dec]* 24
King Accepts Deputy Prime Minister's Resignation *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Dec]* 24
Royal Decree Endorses Resignation *[Amman Radio]* 25
King Says Country 'An Example To Follow' in Region *[Amman TV]* 25
Column Rejects 'Prosecution' of Press *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Dec]* 26

LEBANON

Al-Hariri Pledges Effort To Rebuild State *[VOL]* 27
Buwayz on Government Resignation, Mudslinging *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Syria Reportedly Seeking To Defuse Crisis *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Dec]* 29
Israeli Reportedly Killed in Hizballah Attack *[Beirut Radio]* 29
IDF Soldier Killed in Explosion in South *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Fadlallah Reacts to Alleged Mosad Hit List *[AL-'AHD 25 Nov]* 30

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Christopher Hold 'Serious' Talks *[Damascus TV]* 31

Christopher Comments, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Al-Mu'allim on Peace With Israel, U.S. Role *[HA'ARETZ 6 Dec]* 31
Need for Israeli Declaration on Withdrawal Seen *[Damascus Radio]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Meets With UN Assistance Coordinator *[Kabul Radio]* 34

Bangladesh

Opposition Threatens To Resign 28 Dec *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Group of 2,323 Rohingya Refugees Returns to Burma *[Dhaka Radio]* 34

India

Spy Probe Likely To Delay PSLV Project *[THE ECONOMIC TIMES 6 Dec]* 34
Magazine Wraps Up Espionage Case *[INDIA TODAY 15 Dec]* 36
Pakistanis Reportedly Fire Rockets Across Border *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Editorial: U.S. Election Impact on Policy *[THE PIONEER 6 Dec]* 38

Iran

Paper Views U.S. Style of Democracy *HAMSHAHRI 20 Sep* 38
French Imprison Citizen for Life in Bakhtiar Murder *[AFP]* 39
Lebanese Prime Minister's Resignation Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 39
British Envoy Criticized for Interfering in Affairs *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Commentary Views 'Hostages' in Lebanon *[SALAM 27 Nov]* 40
Majlis Calls For Impeachment of Mines Minister *[IRNA]* 41
'Plethora' of Problems With Changing Constitution *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 24 Nov]* 41
Jobs Key Issue Discussed at Refugee Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Official Reports on Status of 2.5 Million Refugees *[IRNA]* 42
Fire Reported at Old Parliament Building *[IRNA]* 42

Pakistan

Presidential Visit to China, Relations Reviewed 42
'Fruitful' Outcome Seen *[THE NATION 4 Dec]* 42
PRC Nuclear Plants Hailed *[THE NATION 7 Dec]* 43
'Excellent Relations' Viewed *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Expansion of Trade Urged *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Further Reportage on President's Beijing Visit *[cross-reference]* 45

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Delegations Begin Talks

Israeli Delegation Arrives

NC0612133194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—The Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks arrived in Cairo this afternoon. The delegation is headed by Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the civilian administration in the West Bank.

Zohar replaces Major General Dani Rothschild as head of the Israeli delegation to the talks. Rothschild submitted his resignation to the Israeli prime minister yesterday.

Israelis View PA's Condition

TA0612160894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The deliberations between the Israeli and PLO delegations have begun in Cairo, while the dispute between the Foreign Ministry chiefs and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is sharpening. The reports of Lebanonization set off the disagreement. Our political correspondent Udi Segal is on the line with details:

[Segal] The Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians on the interim arrangement arrived in Cairo a short time ago for the two-day negotiations. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning convened the negotiating team for introductory deliberations with the participation of the foreign minister. It was decided that the delegation will be headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir following Major General Dani Rothschild's announcement yesterday that he was resigning from the IDF. Brigadier General Gadi Zohar has joined the delegation. The Cairo deliberations will focus on elections and deciding the negotiating path, as well as issues linked to the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its implementation.

The Foreign Ministry sharply attacked assessments given to the cabinet Sunday by defense elements on the Palestinian Authority's [PA] condition. At a meeting of the Foreign Ministry's top echelon, David Afeq, the head of the Center for Political Research at the Foreign Ministry, attacked Maj. Gen. Uri Sagi, head of the IDF's Intelligence Branch. The talk about Lebanonization is exaggerated. It is our impression that the ground is not being cut from under the Palestinians' feet in the Gaza Strip, Afeq said.

Political sources say that Gen. Sagi claimed his remarks were exaggerated in the media. I referred to a process leading to Lebanonization, Sagi said, and I spoke about the differences between what happened in Lebanon and the struggle between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Sagi said he also spoke about 'Arafat's achievements, and not only his failures. For instance, 'Arafat neutralized the accord's opponents in his inner circle and bolstered the Palestinian police's control on the ground. At the Foreign Ministry meeting, it was agreed that the process must continue along four axes: political, defense, economic, and psychological.

Some of the participants said we have to be sensitive to 'Arafat and Islam in public statements. It is very important for gaining public support for the process, they said. Foreign Ministry analysts said it is important to realize that money will not solve everything. That statement is directed mainly at the Foreign Ministry trend to raise funds for the PA. Even if there is accelerated economic development, there will still be wide-ranging layers of Palestinians who oppose the process, the sources said.

Sha'th on 'Difficult Negotiations'

NC0612145894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on expanding self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip began in Cairo today. The Palestinian side is being headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the self-rule authority. The Israeli side is being headed by Yuri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to journalists prior to the talks, Dr. Sha'th said that these difficult negotiations must lead to a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank's towns, villages, and population centers. They must also lead to comprehensive Palestinian elections that will elect a Palestinian legislative council and a government based on democracy and the people's opinion. He added that the elections are a necessary step for reaching a final solution. He said this solution must be irreversible because it is the only one that can achieve a historic equilibrium between the Palestinian people's rights and the achievement of security and peace for all the states of the region, including Israel.

Sha'th said that it will take time to achieve a full withdrawal, but we want to shorten this period so that peace will bring the best results for all the people of the region. He added that the Palestinians are prepared to negotiate on any important matter to achieve security in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He noted that the security issue is very important and the achievement of security for each side is the essence of the talks.

Sha'th said that two committees will discuss all matters relating to elections. One committee will discuss the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and the other will discuss all topics relating to the elections. He expressed the hope that the two committees will reach an agreement as soon as possible.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Regarding Israeli statements on the amendment of the Declaration of Principles, Sha'th said these statements are annoying because they conflict with the declaration. However, we must not rely on statements but on the negotiations and the implementation of measures. He expressed the hope that Israel's commitment to peace will be evident during the talks because it is in the interest of both Israel and the Palestinians. He indicated that the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed in Brussels that the General Committee—which is responsible for interpreting the interim agreement—will be the one responsible for negotiating not only on the West Bank and on the interim agreement but also on outstanding matters, including the issue of Palestinian prisoners. He expressed satisfaction with the aid given to the Palestinians at the Brussels meeting.

Sha'th said the chief work of the committee on interpreting the interim agreement is the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank. Therefore, the election committee is a separate one so that the committee on interpreting the interim agreement will not get involved in the election issue.

Israeli sources said that the head of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations held a private meeting, which was later joined by the members of the two delegations. The discussions in this round of talks, which will last three days, will focus on Palestinian elections, the redeployment of Israeli forces, and the outstanding security issues between the two sides.

Israel, 4 Arab States Decide To Form Regional Body

TA0612155394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 94 p A3

["Exclusive" report by Nitzan Horowitz in Budapest]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri declared last night that Algeria supports the peace process. Dembri called on Israel and the Arabs to deepen and broaden the process and to "deliver the Middle East from all internal strife."

He added that Algeria takes pride in the fact that the Oslo Agreement is based on tenets endorsed in Algiers, such as the 1989 PLO resolution to accept the existence of the State of Israel.

The Algerian minister's remarks were made in the course of the first-of-its-kind meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt, which was in fact a Middle East "mini-summit" aiming to form a regional security framework after the style of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres voiced criticism at the reports on ties with Algeria, noting that they greatly embarrassed the Algerians and foiled the possibility of expanding the ties with that country in the course of the Budapest conference.

Peres noted, however, that despite his denials, the Algerian minister attended the meeting, which was very frank and positive. The five countries agreed to give the new body a formal status by holding biannual meetings at the level of foreign ministers.

All the ministers said at the meeting that their countries have an interest in establishing this Middle East body that will allow them to profit in several spheres: economic cooperation, relations with Europe, war on terrorism, means to deal with threats, and so forth.

Between the biannual encounters, the countries' ambassadors will routinely meet in Vienna to formulate the new body's objectives and to operate alongside the CSCE. Minister Peres said he was very satisfied with the meeting, which he saw as another stage in the progress toward the establishment of regional frameworks that will imbue peace with new import and depth. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Nov

NC0612124694

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Members Arrested
2. Scholar Visits Mahfuz, Denounces Assassination Attempt
3. U.S. Article on Egyptian-Libyan Deals Published
4. Brotherhood Writer Slams Normalization With Israel
5. Writer Views Plan To Replace Islamic Culture
6. World's Silence Over Serbian Threats Condemned

Labor Party Members Arrested

An unattributed 120-word report on page 1 claims that Labor Party member Kamal Habib was snatched from his home in Shubra al-Khaymah on 26 November by a large force from the State Security Intelligence Department and taken to an undisclosed location. No specific charges were made against him. When contacted, the State Security Intelligence office in Shubra al-Khaymah denied it had arrested Habib, a customary police procedure in such cases, according to the report. The report points out that Habib's arrest is part of the repeated security measures recently taken against Labor Party members.

Another Labor Party member, engineer Mahmud Ahmad Khalaf, Labor Party youth secretary in Qina, has been arrested while walking in downtown Qina as part of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a detention campaign in the city. According to a 100-word report on page 6 by Muhammad Bishari from Qina, police broke into Khalaf's home and seized many of his books.

Scholar Visits Mahfuz, Denounces Assassination Attempt

An unattributed 150-word report on page 1 says that His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, a renowned Islamic scholar, on 27 November visited writer Najib Mahfuz at the Police Hospital, where he is recovering from wounds sustained in an attempt on his life, and wished him a speedy recovery. Mahfuz reaffirmed his intention not to republish his story "Sons of Our Alley," a controversial book frowned upon by ulema and reportedly banned by al-Azhar when it was first published in the late fifties, without the prior approval of al-Azhar. Shaykh al-Ghazali "expressed his respect and appreciation for the great writer for this grand stance" and noted that he had condemned the attempt on his life from the first moment. He described those who tried to assassinate him as khawarij. The khawarij were a seceding sect opposing the rule of the Islamic establishment in the 7th century.

In his weekly 450-word column on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali touches on a related literary topic. He notes that in his early youth the country witnessed a "tremendous literary renaissance" at the hands of great writers and poets who enriched the Arabic library with their literary works that nourished the heart and mind. He adds that the era of these giants, who never claimed to be innovators, is past and has given way to "the age of children" who claim to be innovators and, as such, believe they are untouchable and not accountable for their actions. He adds: "The elected field for this unrestrained innovation is atheism, denial of the shari'ah, and the propagation of permissiveness and sexual chaos." He says modern day communists have adopted secularism as their new title to attack Islam with "all the weapons in their hands." One of them, he adds, is criticizing Najib Mahfuz for banning the circulation of his own works and withholding the publication of his book "The Sons of Our Alley" out of fear. Al-Ghazali adds that this shows that to these old communists innovation means atheism, violation of norms and shari'ah rules, and the collection of "literary garbage" from all over the world, dumping it on Islamic society.

U.S. Article on Egyptian-Libyan Deals Published

The 3,000-word "text" of an article in the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, said to be behind the "crisis" between the Egyptian and U.S. Governments, is published on page 3. The article examines Libya's efforts to break the embargo imposed on the country and Egypt's links in this regard. A 400-word boxed commentary by AL-SHA'B in the middle of the article says the Egyptian public has a right to read one of the articles behind the "hot crisis" between Cairo and Washington. The commentary rejects the "unjust" U.S. siege of various countries and peoples to suit U.S. interests instead of serving justice and international law. The paper says the U.S. article proves the failure of the sanctions and suggests the use of force, naturally against the Arabs and Muslims, not the Serbs or Israel. Voicing support for consolidating Egyptian-Libyan relations, the commentary urges the Egyptian Government to publicly reject the blockade resolutions on Iraq and Libya. Responding to charges in the article against 'Ala' Mubarak, son of President Mubarak, for his links with Libya, the paper reiterates its position on the need to adopt "legal and constitutional measures" regarding the work of officials' sons, but points out that "trade relations with Libya" are not a crime.

Brotherhood Writer Slams Normalization With Israel

Muslim Brotherhood writer Dr. Ahmad al-Malat, in a 2,500-word article on page 5 denounces the Arab states' race to initiate political and economic normalization with Israel, "yesterday's enemy and today's friend." He reminisces about the 1940's, when Arab states hastened to deploy armies to save Palestine from the "Zionist invasion" and the subsequent events that resulted in the establishment of Israel. He goes on to note how Hashemite King 'Abdallah gave up Lod and Ramla to the Jews for them to do what they want with them and how King Husayn of Jordan, his grandson, is following in his grandfather's footsteps. He points out that as time passed Israel became stronger and the Arabs weaker, to the point that the Arabs can no longer return this "genie" to the bottle it was in. He points out that the state of disarray in the Arab world and the suppression of the Islamic trend in all Arab states have given the "Zionists" and the Americans behind them the chance to jump in and impose their "total custodianship" over the Gulf states. This crucial blow, he adds, has guaranteed for the Americans an uninterrupted flow of oil. This, he adds, has caused everyone to panic and search for ways to get closer to the one and only master of the world. As a result, he adds, 'Arafat signed a "treaty of capitulation" with the enemy of yesterday in exchange for a tiny area called Gaza and Jericho. Jordan and the Gulf states followed suit, he notes, and only Syria is left, but it will soon follow the rest. He concludes by saying that despite all this, the "sense of jihad" is still very much alive in the heart of people who have opted for jihad until the Palestinian soil is liberated from the "dirt of the Jews." However, these mujahidin are now being accused of "terrorism and extremism" by 'Arafat, who wants to appease the Jews.

Writer Views Plan To Replace Islamic Culture

A 3,000-word article on page 12 by Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman is entitled: "The Creation Of A Misshapen Generation." 'Abd-al-Rahman says he believes it is a policy to change the Islamic identity of the coming generation. He begins his article by tracing a number of "phenomena" in Egyptian life which may seem to be isolated but in fact are not. The decline of and contempt for the Arabic language in school curricula and in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

society; the increasing attention given to foreign languages; hostility toward the veil, beards, turbans; and the negative portrayal of the prophets are cited as examples of such phenomena. He points out that these and other phenomena are aspects of a unified policy that seeks to give the new Muslim generation a "distorted culture" and change its Islamic identity into a "fake" and "ugly" form. This, he adds, would ensure that Egypt remains locked up and suppressed under the hands of secularists and is suited to "play the role charted for it in the new U.S.-Zionist order" as an obedient follower and a broad economic market. He adds: "Those in charge of bringing up this misshapen generation have tremendous resources to attain their objective. Education, media, culture, and all major sources of influence are monopolized by them." He notes that guarding this policy are enormous internal and external forces that suppress any attempts to spare this generation its "black and miserable fate."

World's Silence Over Serbian Threats Condemned

Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah Shihatah, in an 800-word article on page 2, regrets what he sees as the West's silence over Serbian threats against Muslims living in safe havens in Bosnia. He notes that people do not believe that the NATO, with its huge arsenal, is unable to stand up to the Serbian gangs, who will accept nothing short of killing the Muslims and driving them from their homes. He notes that the Serbs would not have dared make threats against the Muslims had they not been confident of the backing of the so-called free world.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 29 Nov

NC0612140094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

The 29th November issue of 'AQIDATI marks the beginning of the third year of the newspaper, the first edition of which came out on 2 December 1992. The paper dedicates many of its pages to reports enumerating its achievements in the past two years.

The issue contains no articles, commentaries, reports, or interviews directly related with political Islam in Egypt.

The only item that is indirectly related with the subject is an 80-word unattributed report on page 1, which says that Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has issued a decision saying that only orators with a license from the ministry will be allowed to deliver sermons at mosques. He added that the decision aims to tighten the ministry's supervision of mosques to guarantee the authenticity of the ideas preached and protect youths against destructive thoughts.

ICO Bosnia Contact Group Meets in Geneva

TA0712091194 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Mehmet Emin Gul video report in Geneva]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Murat Karayalcin, state minister, deputy prime minister, and acting foreign minister, arrived in Geneva to attend the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Bosnia-Herzegovina contact group meeting. Karayalcin arrived together with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, and Muhamed Secirbegovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina's permanent representative to the United Nations, who were in Budapest for the CSCE summit meeting. The three foreign ministers continued their work aboard the plane en route to Geneva. They were briefed by Secirbegovic regarding the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially in Bihac. Secirbegovic explained the situation on the fronts with the aid of a map.

In a statement to TRT aboard the plane, Musa said that the recent developments in Bihac demonstrated that the European countries, the United Nations, NATO, and even the ICO are not well governed. Musa remarked that the Western contact group and the ICO contact group should meet and openly discuss what they want to do and what can be done. In reply to our question regarding whether the ICO will send a peace force to Bosnia-Herzegovina if Western countries withdraw their troops from there, Musa responded that a peace force can fulfill a task only under UN auspices and that another international mechanism cannot be introduced.

The ICO Bosnia-Herzegovina contact group met in Geneva this morning. The foreign ministers of 11 countries, as well as Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, attended the meeting.

In a statement to TRT after the meeting, Karayalcin said that the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue is not only the problem of the Muslims, but also that of the whole world. He continued:

[Begin Karayalcin recording] The events in Bosnia-Herzegovina concern the entire world. The solution to be introduced in Bosnia-Herzegovina will actually serve as an example for the solution of problems to be faced by humankind in various places in the future. This aspect of the matter is very important. This is what I stated first. Moreover, Turkey submitted certain concrete proposals. Turkey wants close and active relations between the Western and ICO contact groups. The two contact groups should meet and talk. Turkey also feels it will be beneficial to include a Muslim country in the Western contact group, and we indicated that we can fulfill such a task. [end recording] [passage omitted]

ICO Ready To Send Islamic Forces

LD0612211594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Contact Group foreign ministers began in Geneva on Tuesday [6 December]. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

president of Bosnia-Herzegovina was also present. At the meeting, which was also attended by the ICO secretary general and the foreign ministers of Croatia, as well as a number of other Islamic countries, the participants announced their opposition to the withdrawal of UN forces from Bosnia and announced that Islamic countries are prepared to replace UN forces if the latter are withdrawn.

In Tuesday's session, Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, outlined the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the specific situation of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the measures that need to be taken by Islamic countries. Our country's foreign minister said that the meeting was organized as a protest against the inhuman and premeditated violence against the Muslims in Bosnia. Our country's foreign minister described the current violent aggression against the Muslims of Bosnia as a human tragedy, and he added: We are facing an international aggression against Bihac.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, Egypt, and Senegal are the seven members of the ICO contact group.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Reportedly Resigns From PA Post

TA0612135694 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 5 Dec 94 p 1

[Exclusive to AL-MANAR]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—A senior Palestinian source has said that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, secretary general of FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union Party] and minister of information and culture in the Palestinian Authority [PA] has submitted his resignation from his ministerial post and that the resignation has been accepted.

Al-Nashashibi on Trade Agreements Reached With EU

JN0712114694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, finance minister at the Palestinian National Authority, who is attending a European Union [EU] and Middle East economic partnership conference in Cairo, has said that the National Authority has reached agreement with the EU to export Palestinian products to Europe directly, without Israeli mediation.

Al-Nashashibi added: We have signed several trade exchange agreements, particularly with Germany, to finance three economic projects in the Gaza Strip. He said the European states are willing to provide the Palestinian market with the commodities specified in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and at competitive prices. Al-Nashashibi stressed that the National Authority seeks to bolster economic and trade relations with Egypt, particularly in the fields of energy, agriculture, and housing.

Al-Nashashibi said there could be no economic cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli companies without making progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Five Fatah Wounded in Firing Between Rival Factions

TA0612180394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Nablus tonight five Fatah activists sustained light injuries in a shooting incident between rival factions of the organization.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem says that members of one group are apparently associated with Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security services.

PLO's al-Surani: Fatah, Hamas Reach Agreements

NC0612183994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 6 Dec (MENA)—Jamal al-Surani, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the reconciliation committee between Fatah and Hamas, has stated that the committee has so far agreed on some positive and practical results to calm the situation and defuse the tension. All sides agreed that the Palestinian National Authority is the only authority and institution responsible for security in the self-rule areas while recognizing the right of every party to its opinion and stance on the Oslo Agreement.

Al-Surani said today in an interview with a MENA correspondent that everyone wants to exert efforts now as one body until the Israelis are made to leave the Gaza Strip and the West Bank completely, the settlements are eliminated, the Palestinian state is established with Jerusalem as its capital, and elections are held, regardless of whether Hamas takes part in them or not.

He clarified that the Palestinian case is unprecedented. There has never been a case in history where a nation in a settlement or protectorate or under any kind of occupation has gone through what the Palestinian people have experienced as Israel has attempted throughout 27 years of occupation to destroy everything in Gaza. We are expected to start from scratch, he said, and we are not an agricultural or industrial nation. We have nothing but our determination, with which we will overcome all difficulties and build our homeland.

Jamal al-Surani said that Israel alleges that it is democratic, but places conditions on the elections and is stalling the implementation of the pledges and agreements that it signed.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The PLO Executive Committee member blamed the United States for Israel's behavior. He said it supports Israel's aggression and applies a double standard. We hope it will behave in a fair and objective manner, he said, particularly since it is a sponsor of the peace process.

On the PLO Executive Committee meetings, al-Surani said that it will meet soon in an Arab country, possibly Egypt, despite the fact that six of the 18 members of the committee have had their memberships frozen.

He affirmed the importance of these meetings because they represent the PLO, which in turn represents the Palestinian people.

Hamas Said To Recognize PA 'Until Elections'

MM0612142094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by Mahir 'Uthman in London, Husayn Hijazi in Gaza, and Rashid Khashanah in Tunis: "Hamas Recognizes the Authority Until Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The joint committee formed to follow up the dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) will resume meetings in Gaza today. [passage omitted]

In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, an informed source in Gaza said that "Hamas has recognized the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA] until the elections," but Hamas' official spokesman in Gaza told AL-HAYAH, in a telephone statement, that the position of his movement is that the PA exists as a result of the Oslo agreement and "we recognize its existence but we do not recognize the Oslo agreement."

Fatah yesterday proposed that a Palestinian code of honor be drafted "for the homeland and the diaspora forbidding recourse to arms" and acting as a charter "for the struggle for freedom and independence for all the people and territory." [passage omitted]

An official close to the PA's decisionmaking center has, in a telephone statement, told AL-HAYAH that "Hamas has recognized the PA until the Palestinian autonomy elections" are held in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. He added that "the formula is that the PA is the (sole) authority until the elections." He said that the current talks in Gaza are between Hamas and Fatah and not between Hamas and the PA.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Hamas' spokesman in Gaza, has, however, told AL-HAYAH in a telephone statement that the talks "are between Hamas and the PA and not between Hamas and Fatah with whom we have no problems and with whom we expect no problems. The problems are between the Palestinian organizations and public on the one hand and the PA on the other." On the question of Hamas recognizing the PNA, al-Zahhar said: "Our position is that the PA came as a result of the Oslo agreement. That does not mean that we recognize the Oslo agreement. We do not want power and we do not seek it. We do not want two authorities because that would mean conflict." He added that "in the past when there was no authority in Gaza, the organizations (Palestinian factions) played that part."

Asked if Hamas would participate in the Palestinian elections, al-Zahhar replied: "If the intention is to hold unconditional elections without commitment to the autonomy program" (then we would participate). He added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq "Rabin talked about withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank cities and villages for three days during which the elections would be held and then the army would return to its previous positions. He also talked about amendment of the Oslo agreement, which would mean that temporary autonomy would perhaps no longer be temporary." [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Leader Expects Escalation of Attacks

NC0612175094 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 25 Nov 94 p 17

[Interview with Fathai al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, by Yusuf al-Shaykh; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Shaykh] [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir] 'Arafat and his advisers have explicitly said that the Gaza massacre and other security practices earlier were aimed at minimizing anti-Jewish operations, which have recently been escalated through martyrdom-seeking attacks. Do you think such practices can really curb operations against the Zionist enemy?

[Al-Shaqaqi] It is exactly the opposite. The massacre and the other mistakes committed by 'Arafat prompt the mujahid forces to escalate their military action. They just add to the many excuses we have to continue our jihad and mount more military operations. We hold 'Arafat fully responsible for the massacre. We know that 'Arafat receives orders from Rabin, and we therefore take revenge against both by escalating armed struggle against the soldiers of the Zionist occupation. We know that 'Arafat feels pained at the killing of Zionist soldiers, just as Rabin does; perhaps he feels more sorry for the killing of Zionist soldiers than for the killing of Palestinian policemen. I believe that what 'Arafat did produced results that are contrary to what he had planned. I expect further military operations, even in the self-rule areas, such as the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

U.S. Urged To Play 'Fair Sponsor' Role in Talks

JN0612210594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Station commentary: "Christopher's Visit and the Urgent Need for a Binding Authority"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region takes place while the peace talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track and the Syrian-Israeli track are foundering. Attention today is riveted to the new U.S. endeavor to see whether it can settle the differences and rescue peace from the danger of collapse, particularly that the time factor has become of prime importance.

The Labor Party which heads the Israeli government is approaching the Knesset elections without scoring any major achievement on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks. These two tracks are the ones to decide the final outcome of peace in this region. If the process continues to revolve in a vicious circle, particularly on the Palestinian track, the Labor Party's chances of success in the Knesset elections will be minimal, if not far-fetched.

The question that now imposes itself is will Secretary Christopher, through this tour, work to end the deadlock on the two tracks or on one of them? The answer to this question brings to mind the role of the U.S. and Russian cosponsors in sponsoring the negotiations and in guaranteeing that the negotiating sides abide by the bases of the negotiations and the agreements stemming from them.

The role of the United Nations and the European group has been excluded and was replaced by the role of the United States and Russian Federation. This was followed by the marginalization of the Russian role prior to completely canceling it. The U.S. sponsor's role then became confined to that of a messenger who helps the parties exchange viewpoints without any intervention from his part whether in terms of encouragement or in terms of bringing pressure to bear to commit the party that obstructs the negotiations.

We regret to say that the logical result of the absence of any control, binding force, and responsible authority has brought the peace process to a deadened. The absence of any role and authority has given the Israeli government a free hand to disavow the obligations and to interpret and fashion the resolutions, conventions, and agreements in line with its parochial interests. This has harmed the credibility of peace and has shaken the people's confidence in it, particularly the Palestinian people's trust in the justice that was expected from the Israeli peace pattern.

Secretary Christopher's arrival in the region, and his expected meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is an occasion to invite the U.S. Administration to exercise the role of a fair sponsor who rejects the waverings, postponements, obstructionism and attempts to circumvent agreements the Israeli government is carrying out.

We do not want Christopher's visit and the U.S. mediation to become a cover for peddling the Israeli violations of the Oslo agreement and the Israeli government's attempts to amend it in a negative manner. This is so because the waverings, the violations, and the amendment attempts which are rejected on the Palestinian level will only exacerbate the crisis and endanger the aspired peace.

With the continued obstruction of the U.S. role as a fair sponsor emerges the reality that the negotiations lack an authority which can save the situation. If the United States and Russia, in practice, do not exercise this role, will this dictate a return to the authority of the United Nations which is armed with resolutions, conventions, and a moral and material binding force that enables the European countries, Japan, and the world to all contribute in forging peace in this region. This has been the Palestinian stand since the beginning of the negotiations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Cuban Foreign Minister Conducts Two-Day Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

LD0612131194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez arrived at Houari Boumediene International Airport today on a two-day visit to our country following an invitation from his Algerian counterpart, Mohamed Salah Dembri.

The Cuban foreign minister made the following statement at the airport:

[Begin Gonzales recording in Spanish, fading into Arabic translation] This visit is a good opportunity for us, the first aim of which is to strengthen relations between our two countries. At the same time, we are conducting a tour of the region. At the bilateral level, we should exchange views and ideas on numerous issues. We also have the desire to explain to our Algerian brothers the current situation in Cuba. We have a tradition of coordinating and holding direct contacts at all international conferences, the United Nations, and others, between the two countries, particularly with my friend, the Algerian foreign minister. [end recording]

Holds Talks With Dembri

LD0612201894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Talks between Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammed Salah Dembri and Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister Roberto Gonzalez Robaina were held at the El Mithaq residence this evening. The talks began as tete-a-tete before they expanded to include members of the two delegations.

The talks focused on means of enhancing bilateral relations. The two sides exchanged views on issues of common concern, notably, of cooperation and coordination at the G77 and nonaligned states level.

The visit afforded the Cuban minister an opportunity to acquaint himself with the process of building the Arab Maghreb, which has witnessed a speedy drive during Algeria's presidency. The Cuban minister expressed conviction that the visit would open prospects for increasing cooperation in various fields such as health, culture, and sports, before he visits other Arab countries.

This evening the Cuban foreign affairs minister is expected to be received by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and National Council Speaker Abdelkader Bensalah, before meeting President Liamine Zeroual tomorrow. Robaina will end his visit with a news conference. [passage omitted]

Dembri, Tunisia's Yahya Discuss CSCE Stance

LD0512221994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri held talks with his Tunisian counterpart, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, in Budapest today. The meeting focused on coordinating a joint Maghreban stance and presenting it before the CSCE summit.

It is worth pointing out that the Hungarian capital yesterday embraced an Arab coordination meeting that included Mohamed Salah Dembri, 'Amr Musa [Egyptian foreign minister], and Habib Ben Yahya aimed at preparing a joint initiative to be presented to the European troika with regard to issues related to stability and security that take into consideration the Arab concerns.

FIS Urges CSCE To Pressure France

LD0512222994 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has sent a message to the CSCE summit. It called on the 53 member states to pressure France to stop supporting the Algerian authorities. It also urged them to end any diplomatic relations with Algiers until free elections take place in the country.

Belhadj Threat of 'Suicide' Attacks Discounted

MM0612152094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Belhadj Threatens Suicide Operations Against French Interests in Arab World"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Reports from Algeria indicate that army units supported by aircraft have made clear progress in more than one region in the large-scale combing campaign against members of the armed Islamic groups and that hundreds were killed on both sides in the confrontations which have continued since the beginning of November. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in a significant development, it was reported from Paris yesterday that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has threatened to launch suicide operations against French interests in the Middle East from the beginning of the new year. FIS' second in command Shaykh Ali Belhadj, who has been under house arrest in the capital since last September, has been quoted as saying in a message brought out of Algeria that "French interests and diplomatic missions in the Arab world will be the target of suicide attacks." The message did not give any details about the threat of attacks on French interests but said that they might begin at the beginning of 1995. It blamed France's "neo-colonialist" policy for what is happening in Algeria and held the Algerian regime "fully responsible for the country's destruction, the massacres, and the civilian victims."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

AL-HAYAH has been unable to verify the authenticity of Belhadj's message. Several sources doubt that he made such a threat to France. FIS sources say that they do not believe that Belhadj wrote that message which came two days after a French national called Lucien Marell (74) was killed in Oran. The Algerian police said that he was killed with cold steel and that the motive was burglary. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Eliminate 'Terrorists'

Seven Killed 3-4 Dec

LD0512194794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services has today announced that seven terrorists were eliminated on Saturday [3 December] and Sunday in Tipaza, Batna, and Blida Provinces.

Following these operations, the security services recovered a number of weapons.

According the same statement, two terrorists, who were killed on an earlier date, the first (Lazaar Farid), who was killed in Blida, and the second, (Bentaib Bechir), known as (Abi Moussa), who was killed in Tizi Ouzou, have been identified.

Fourteen Killed 5 Dec

LD0612191994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A statement issued today by the security services said that security forces killed 10 terrorists in the capital yesterday, as well as another four in Constantine, Tipaza, and Mascara. The statement added that security forces recovered a number of weapons and documents.

Tazoult Jailbreak Leader Killed

LD0612193494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services have announced that they killed the main leader of armed groups in the eastern region of the country on 19 November. The 29-year old Khatir Ben M'hend Boudali, known as Abou Mousaib, was considered by the security forces as the mastermind of the Tazoult jail breakout.

Bentayeb Bachir, known as Abou Moussa, the terrorist killed last Sunday in Tizi Ouzou, was the leader of armed groups operating in the province of Tizi Ouzou. According to the security services, he was wanted since October 1993.

Transitional National Council Discusses Budget

LD0612195794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Transitional National Council this morning resumed the proceedings of its autumn session. The discussion of the 1995 financial bill was on the agenda.

The discussion will last for three days, and the Finance Minister is expected to answer the members' question. Radio correspondent Mourad Meddaoui reports:

[Meddaoui] In his presentation of the draft proposal [al-mashru' al-tamhidi], Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour, stressed that the aforementioned change was evident from the gross domestic product which was expected to witness an increase from 2.2 percent to 3.8 percent next year.

Among the most important factors for this resumption of economic activity are the increase in the volume of imports [as given] from the present $9.1 billion to $10.2 billion next year. The finance minister said that this increase which amounted to one billion dollars was basically due to increases in the export [as given] revenues, and the rescheduling of the foreign debt.

Despite the relative stagnation of the hydrocarbon sector, the government expected an increase in the growth pattern of the agricultural sector to reach nine percent, in comparison with minus 5 percent this year.

The draft proposal, which has been put forth to the members of the Transitional National Council for modification and enrichment despite the difficult economic conditions, fell within the same course of this year's financial complementary bill, i.e. to continue supporting the economic stability program and rationalizing the aims of the government's program at the legislative level during the transitional period, particularly those connected with the implementation of the austerity policy in managing the budget, achieving balance between revenues and expenditures, and strengthening the legal measures for regulating economic growth and adapting it to the economic and social environment. Among these measures, we find the social aspect which aimed at raising the monthly benefit paid to the disabled who did not have jobs from 1500 Algerian dinars to 2000 dinars.

After the rapporteur of the finance and budget committee had read the preliminary report on the draft proposal, the proceedings adjourned until this afternoon where they would take the form of discussions.

EU Grants Loan To Bolster Balance of Payments

LD0512223094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2000 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a diplomatic source, the finance ministers of the EU member states agreed in Brussels, Belgium, today to grant a loan worth nearly 240 million dollars to Algeria to bolster the balance of payments. This decision will only be final in two or three months' time, according to the same source.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

GCC Conference To Focus on Common Border Issues

LD0512175394 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Dec. 5, (IRNA)—The forthcoming summit meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) [GCC] in Bahrain on 19 December will focus on border issues among the six member states of the council, reported Egyptian Islamic paper AL-SHA'B.

The bi-weekly newspaper claimed to have information that Bahrain is expected to present a proposal in the summit on resolving border issues so as to avoid future confrontation.

The PGCC states are worried that border disputes among member states are hindering the establishment of a joint defense system.

AL-SHA'B noted that the mufti of Saudi Arabia Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz recently called for the creation of an Islamic scholar's committee to resolve disputes and differences among the states of the region.

Shaykh Bin-Baz underlined that it was not allowed for Muslims to solve their problems outside the framework of Shari'ah.

Qatar recently lodged a protest to the PGCC secretariat over five border incidents with Saudi Arabia in 1993 and 1994 and called for investigations into the incidents.

The report noted that Washington was enraged when Qatar reportedly signed an agreement with Iran to train its military personnel. In reply Qatar turned toward Cuba.

The paper said border disputes are hindering cooperation among the PGCC states. During the recent crisis between Iraq and Kuwait in October, Washington had to send troops from California because one Persian Gulf Arab State did not allow the U.S. to move its troops stationed on its territory toward the Kuwaiti border.

Kuwait

POW Committee Says Iraq Acknowledged 11 Names

LD0612174394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1524 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 6 Dec—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the national committee for the affairs of POWs and the missing, revealed today that Iraq acknowledged the names of 11 people, the files on whom had been recently received by Kuwait. This was said by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah in a statement to KUNA before his departure for Geneva to attend meetings of the special international tripartite [as received] committee on Kuwaiti POWs and the missing in Iraq, which includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the USA, Britain , France, Iraq and the International Red Cross.

Shaykh Salim said that Kuwait had so far received 56 names, including the 11 names received two days ago, after the Iraqi regime's acknowledgment. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim mentioned that a Kuwaiti technical committee under the chairmanship of Dr Ibrahim Majid al-Shahin, member of the national committee for the affairs of the prisoners and the missing, would assume its responsibilities after Iraq acknowledged that some of the prisoners have died, "God forbid."

He stressed that "Kuwait will not accept such an acknowledgement to pass easily" without the technical committee taking the necessary measures to identify any corpses, the reason of death, and when and how the death happened.

Shaykh Salim praised the meetings held by the international tripartite committee, particularly the meeting on 6 December in Geneva, which resulted in the attendance of the Iraqi regime's delegate, a matter which indicated "Iraq's acknowledgement of the existence of Kuwaiti prisoners, and of the importance of the technical committee's work."

He said that the Iraqi regime's attendance of the forthcoming meetings would not absolve it from responsibility toward the Kuwaiti prisoners and the missing and from finding out about their fate and well-being."

Country Said Seeking 'Good Relations' With Iran

MM0612102494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Dec 94 p6

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun has stated that his country wants good relations with Iran which he described as "a major regional power which, like other states, is entitled to its own interests in the region." He said that he has visited Iran and hoped that Iranian Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri would soon take up his invitation to visit Kuwait.

At a press conference he held in London yesterday, al-Sa'dun emphasized that Kuwait supports the position of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on recourse to the International Court of Justice for the settlement of the issue of the three islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu-Musa. He added that it is up to Iran to prove its claim of ownership of the islands. The UAE, he said, has documents confirming its right to the islands.

He noted that the issue of the islands is causing tension with the Gulf states. He urged Iran to take into consideration the interests of the other states while protecting its own legitimate interests in the region. He said that he hoped Iran would respond to the UAE's expressed willingness for dialogue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In reply to questions on the Kuwaiti POW's and whether solving that problem would solve Kuwait's problem with Iraq, al-Sa'dun said that the POW's issue has "priority" for his country but "it does not constitute all the issues." He said that Iraq has not returned all the property looted by its forces during the occupation of Kuwait. He added that "the effects of what Iraq did were not confined to Kuwait but extended to the region's security and stability and to the Iraqi people." He mentioned the destruction of over 4,000 Kurdish villages and the departure of the population of southern Iraq to Iran to escape coercion and terrorism. He confirmed that Kuwait is helping the refugees.

He said that if Iraq complied with all the UN Security Council resolutions, there would be no justification for the continuation of the international embargo.

On relations with the Iraqi opposition, al-Sa'dun said that Kuwait has no intention of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs but has some contacts with opposition parties and has received opposition leaders. He pointed out that some Iraqi opposition forces had not taken a clear position on recognition of Resolution 833 on border demarcation until after Baghdad's acceptance of that resolution.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Approves Action Against 'Terrorism'

LD0612134594 Riyadh SPA in English 1228 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, Dec 6, SPA—[passage omitted] After reviewing recommendations of the ministerial committee on the environment reached in the fifth meeting, which was held on 26-4-1414 H, the council decided to approve recommendations 1/5, 2/5, 4/5, 5/5, and 6/5.

Concerning item four of recommendations 1/5, which deals with environment affairs at ministries and relevant authorities, one of the existing administrative divisions will handle them for the time being, and will act as liaison between these authorities and the committee and the Meteorological and Environment Protection Authority.

Concerning Recommendation 5/5, on the formation of a branch ministerial committee related to the Saudi position on environment affairs on the international level, the council decided that the minister of finance and national economy should be invited to attend the meetings if it was to discuss financial appropriations.

Concerning Recommendation 6/5, to form a committee to evaluate available resources for the Central Environmental Authority (the meteorological and environment protection authority), and in view of the existence of a study by the World Bank on this issue within the context of the technical cooperation program, the committee will study the World Bank report, give recommendations about it and submit these recommendations to the ministerial committee on the environment which will take the necessary decisions on these issues.

The Council of Ministers approved the rules of action of the Organization of Islamic Conference member states to combat international terrorism, according to the formula attached to the decision, provided that it is approved by the 22nd OIC [ICO] foreign ministers conference.

It also approved the appointment of Dr. Mohammad Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Fahd al-Jriwi as adviser at the Riyadh governing body, on the 15th administrative grade, and the appointment of Dr. 'Ali Bin- Morshid as vice-president of the girls college on the 15th administrative grade.

Papers View Mideast Peace Moves, Bosnia, Iran

LD0612141894 Riyadh SPA in English 1253 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Dec 6, SPA—Saudi Arabic language newspapers published in the kingdom commented editorially today on the Middle East peace process and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Jeddah-based AL-MADINA said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new mission is not easier than the previous ones as Israeli intransigence increases everyday.

The paper said Christopher's mission today is the first in the region at a time when the European Union decided to lift the arms embargo on Syria, the on-set of U.S. media campaign against Egypt and the continuing obstinate attitude of Israel on peace with Syria.

The paper said the Syrian side is committed to the same principles of the Madrid conference on peace and security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Commenting on the same issue, the Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said the actual outcome of peace efforts in the region, seven months after the beginning of the Palestinian self-rule, and following eight shuttle diplomacy trips by Christopher, seems less than modest in view of the U.S. Administration's keenness on peace and security in the Middle East.

Commenting on the situation in Bosnia, the Mecca-based AL-NADWA said while the major world leaders were pre-occupied by disputes on power in Europe and the former Soviet republics, Bosnian Serbs have launched the most barbaric attack on Moslems, using firebombs against Moslem civilians in northwest Bosnia.

It said the Serbs responded to Clinton's calls for peace negotiations by escalating savage attacks on Bosnian Moslems, which has a serious implication: Namely that Bosnian Serbs do not care for any of the major states or the will of the international community.

The Dammam-based AL-YOM said the current Iranian regime uses repression and persecution, exports terrorism and lives in a political isolation while suffering from an economic crisis.

AL-RIYADH said it was difficult to guess the reasons for recent Western media barrages against Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria and why they are launched simultaneously.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

UN Envoy Calls Kuwait Invasion 'Regrettable'

BR0612102794 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 4 Dec 94 p 7

[Report on interview with UN Ambassador Barzan al-Tikriti by Gunilla von Hall in Geneva; date not given: "Regrettable That Iraq Invaded Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva—"It is regrettable that Iraq invaded Kuwait. I wish that it had not happened, as the consequences are terrible for Iraq. We are now doing everything we can to put things right. The United States and Iraq cannot continue to be enemies; we need each other."

This statement, expressing an eagerness for reconciliation, came from Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's UN ambassador in Geneva who was the head of the Iraqi intelligence service for 11 years and is a half-brother of President Saddam Husayn. During a three-hour interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET, al-Tikriti spoke with surprising frankness about several controversial matters. It was, for example, the first time that a representative of the regime admitted that the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 was a regrettable mistake.

"The Butcher"

Barzan al-Tikriti, who prefers to be called "His Excellency," received us in his ambassador's office at the Iraqi mission in Geneva. As one of Saddam Husayn's closest associates he very seldom grants interviews, and he has furthermore been aware of his nickname, "Barzan the Butcher," since his years as chief of the intelligence service.

Al-Tikriti was correctly dressed in a brown suit with vest, but he greeted us with a suspicious, dark-eyed gaze. His desk was cluttered with books, video films and tea cups, and Arab music streamed from hidden loudspeakers. A large photograph of his half- brother, Saddam Husayn, hung on the wall, and underneath it was a detailed family tree in a frame. The Iraqi ambassador knocked out his pipe and said confidingly:

"In politics there is no permanent hatred. It is high time that the United States and Iraq normalized their relations. We want an open and honest dialogue with the Americans. We cannot continue being enemies for ever."

However, al-Tikriti regretted that the Americans are not as anxious to open a dialogue as the Iraqis are. He said indignantly: "They refuse to meet us, but the United States is more than ready to meet dictators like the leaders of North Korea." The frustration is obvious, but at the same time, self-confidence and a feeling of being at an advantage come through as well. Iraq is sitting with a trump card in its hand.

"We have fulfilled the UN resolutions necessary for having the sanctions lifted. Inspection of the armaments industry started 1 October. We have recognized Kuwait. There is no longer any reason for a tough line on sanctions," al-Tikriti said, emphasizing that the lack of international rewards for Iraqi cooperation "actually makes us very nervous."

Strengthens the Regime

"On 15 January the UN Security Council will vote on continued sanctions. The rift is widening between Russia, France, and China on the one hand and the United States and Great Britain on the other. The United States should change its view in the next six months and accept lighter sanctions.

Al-Tikriti repeated several times that "the United States and Iraq need each other, politically, economically, culturally. . ." He also pointed out that "the United States has other interests to look after, among them Israeli ones." The president's half brother pointed out that "the Americans blame the dictatorship and refuse to give up until Saddam Husayn is replaced." But he considers such a scenario "absurd, unrealistic, and impossible." He claimed that four years of sanctions have served only to strengthen Saddam Husayn's position to the maximum.

"A total embargo which bans everything from ammunition to aspirin means that the Iraqis feel the sanctions are directed against them, not against the regime. The unyielding U.S. pressure in particular has contributed to the Iraqis' hatred of the outside world and served to justify the regime."

The UN ambassador said that the sanctions are "unjust," and that the UN Security Council should have banned only military trade instead and not involved food, medicine, and agricultural and industrial products. He maintained that even the Iraqi regime now suffers from the sanctions "as they can no longer eat the same good food or travel freely and they are furthermore in agony over the people's suffering."

"Reports of Saddam Husayn's renovations to his luxurious pleasure palace are just unimportant details."

The UN embargo has really begun to bite in the past year, and "children without shoes and wearing ragged clothing are now a common sight," according to al-Tikriti. He said bitterly that UN sanctions "are even stopping the import of pens for schoolchildren" and claims that many children now go begging instead of attending school.

Under the embargo Iraq is allowed to sell oil for $1.6 billion, on the condition that the United Nations takes charge of the money and buys and distributes only food and medicine. But Saddam Husayn has thus far rejected this possibility, especially since part of the oil money would go to victims of the Kuwait crisis.

"We have proposed that we be allowed to buy and distribute food and medicine under UN supervision. But the United Nations has refused, and so we do not intend to sell any oil either," the ambassador said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"Unthinking of the United States"

Oil was the main reason Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990. With falling oil prices, Kuwait's and Saudi Arabia's overproduction of oil, as well as a faltering economy after eight years of war with Iran "Iraq tried to resolve this matter."

"But Kuwait also had a plan, signed in Washington, to overthrow the Iraqi regime. We wanted to stop this, but we realized too late that Kuwait was only a decoy. Iraq was lured into Kuwait on false premises, in order to give the Americans the opportunity to get control of the region. And now they are sitting there, on top of the oil."

The Americans' recent actions when they sent 70,000 troops, warships and strike aircraft to the Persian Gulf in response to 80,000 Iraqi troops who were approaching the border to Kuwait with an alarming degree of interest, also irritates Saddam Husayn's half brother. He called the US reaction "exaggerated and unthinking."

"There are two main rules when you are going to invade a country: a secret plan and with the element of surprize. Neither of them were present on 6 October when we were accused of military mobilization near Kuwait. It was a routine troop movement around Basra. We didn't want to move troops north, because we could have been accused of provocation against the Kurds," al-Tikriti said and sighed: "No matter what we do, it is wrong."

No Thanks from Sweden

You cannot really feel all that sorry for the Iraqi military establishment. On the one hand these "normal" troop movements succeeded in uniting an increasingly dissatisfied and demoralized army, and on the other in drawing world attention to the sufferings under the sanctions. A majority of analysts agree that this was the purpose rather than repeating the mistake made in 1990.

There is more reason to feel sorry for Iraq's Kurds and Shi'a Muslims, who have been persecuted, tortured, and put to death by the regime for many years. The UN ambassador assured us, however, that Iraq is "democracy's defender," and that this applies only to "Iranian Shi'a Muslim agents" adding that "the Kurds will of course get self-determination."

But more than Kurds and Shi'a Muslims, it is the Swedes who really irritate Saddam Husayn's half-brother. It was al-Tikriti who had three Swedes imprisoned in Baghdad released last year by persuading the Swedish king to write a letter to Saddam Husayn.

"But I have not received so much as a thank-you for my help! The Swedish Government has sent no word at all, not a letter, not a telephone call, not a sound. I am really disappointed in Sweden," the Iraqi UN ambassador said in conclusion.

Official Urges Arabs To Resume Trade Exchanges

JN0512130994 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec. 5, INA—Iraq has called upon the Arab countries to implement the Arab economic unity agreement and resume the economic and trade exchanges with Iraq and put an end to the state of the unjustified blockade imposed by the imperialist forces.

Head of the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the Arab Unity Council Nabil Najm Said in a speech in the concluding session that the council members are required to counter the new methods affecting economies and interests of the Arab countries, especially the blockade clamped on Iraq and Libya which has grave effects on march of the joint Arab action.

Committee Begins Meetings on Cooperation With Sudan

JN0612165294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text) Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Meetings of the 10th session of the Iraqi-Sudanese joint committee for bolstering bilateral cooperation began here today.

The Iraqi side to the meeting was led by Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn, while the Sudanese side was led by 'Abdallah Hasan Ahmad, minister of finance and economic planning.

The two sides will discuss trade, financial, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Iraq and Sudan.

Saddam Receives Cable From Palestinian Faction Head

JN0712111194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Shaykh Kamil Nasir al-'Anqawi, secretary general of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in which he reaffirmed his front's support for Iraq in its defense of the nation's sovereignty, honor, and dignity.

He said Iraq will continue to remain strong and steadfast under Saddam's courageous and faithful leadership until the faithful mujahidin achieve victory over the United States and its allies.

Saddam Addresses Cabinet Session on Industrial Sector

JN0612184394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has blessed the industrial

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sector's efforts and perseverance as it scores daily qualitative achievements and advances befitting Iraq's great march. He said the industrial sector has had a vanguard role in the reconstruction drive, which has been testified to by both friend and foe, under an unjust, unprecedented blockade.

Presiding over the 29th session of the Council of Ministers, his excellency said: We have maintained a comprehensive view of the progress of the industrial sector. Beside considering the private [as received] sector a part of the national wealth, we also view it with responsibility and special care. When it fails to meet production standards, we advise it how to rectify its failures. When it fails to develop, we help it expedite its development in terms of the quantity and quality of production, or in terms of the investment trends. The facilities that have been provided to encourage its growth in the electronic industries have been greater than the facilities provided in the chemical and mechanical industries, for example.

His excellency added: We can now make and set up production lines and complete factories. Our country needs a great deal of products, machinery, and intermediary industries. Therefore, any progress we achieve in the production lines and machinery industry will not be absorbed by the socialist sector only. Therefore, it is necessary that there be coordination and distribution of roles among the socialist, mixed, and private sectors in this regard. It is important that competition be created and incentives encouraged among these sectors so that each sector would learn from the experiences of the other sectors. This will give each sector a chance to enhance its ability to increase and improve its production.

The president said: We actually began to implement this policy on a limited basis before the great battle, the immortal Mother of Battles. But this policy has expanded a great deal during the past three years.

In its session, the Council of Ministers discussed a number of organizational issues in the industrial sector. It also discussed a report presented by the Ministry of Irrigation on the required surveys to establish a system for controlling the distribution of irrigation water to agricultural lands.

The council made the required decisions in this regard.

Saddam Orders Exploitation of Agricultural Lands

JN0512112394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Nov 94 p 4

[Article by Majid al-Baldawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered the exploitation of 450,000 donums of agricultural lands which have recently been reclaimed in Maysan Governorate for expansion in the cultivation of strategic grain crops.

Making this announcement, a spokesman for the Agricultural Committee in Maysan Governorate said this offer is one of several generous offers by the leader president to the peasants in Maysan in order to expand the cultivated area in the governorate.

AL-THAWRAH has learned that leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has also ordered the exploitation of 1.2 million donums of recently reclaimed lands in Maysan, Wasit, Dhi Qar, and al-Basrah Governorates in order to expand the cultivated areas in these governorates and defeat the economic embargo imposed on our struggler people.

Saddam Orders Funding for al-Basrah Projects

JN0512111594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered the allocation of 20 million dinars for the implementation of several irrigation projects in Abu al-Khasib and al-Faw Districts and their subdistricts west of Shatt al-'Arab.

Al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud said this generous offer, which is aimed at supplying irrigation water to palm tree plantations, includes dredging 50 kilometers of clogged rivers, cleaning 25 kilometers of other rivers, and raising embankments to prevent plantations from being flooded by river waters.

The governor pointed out that the offer includes building 25 pipe crossings and reconstructing 50 others on rivers branching off Shatt al-'Arab, as well as leveling 500 donums of plantations. All projects are to be completed before the end of this year.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Christopher Arrives; Rabinovich Views Syrian Track

TA0612192594 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington, this evening said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has not rejected in principle the components of the peace package proposed by Israel. This is contrary to what was implied in the remarks made by the Syrian leader after meeting his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher landed in Israel this evening and will meet later tonight with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the latter's home. Our correspondent Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] [passage omitted] The prevailing assessment among officials in Jerusalem this afternoon was that, as opposed to the negative atmosphere, some progress had apparently been made. Ambasssador Rabinovich also made some statements to us tonight which were not indicative of a political deadlock.

[Rabinovich] The negotiations are not stuck. There has been some slow progress which is too limited in our opinion. We will certainly want faster and more impressive progress. The statements coming from the Syrian side are mainly for negotiating purposes and aim to create an atmosphere that the Syrians currently believe will be in their interests. Contrary to what may have been implied by President al-Asad's remarks following his meeting with President Mubarak, the Syrians do not categorically reject the package but are bargaining for a bigger piece of the pie. That is what the negotiations are about. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin on Meeting With Christopher

TA0712090294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher this morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he received from his guest impressions and information from his visit to Damascus that certain difficulties in the negotiations can be overcome in the future. At the same time the prime minister noted that there is no improvement in the Syrian positions, adding that it is too early to discuss the content of the negotiations. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the two dignitaries emphasized the fact that the public tension between Israel and Syria is subsiding.

Poll Shows 70 Percent Against U.S. Troops on Golan

TA0612144994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky and Dan Izenberg]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] A new poll released yesterday shows that nearly 70 percent of the public is against the stationing of American troops on the Golan Heights in the framework of a peace agreement with Syria, and over 60 percent is against a full withdrawal from the Heights.

The poll, conducted for the Begin-al-Sadat (Besa) Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, showed that while 23.2 percent support full withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace, only 15.1 percent support posting US soldiers there.

The survey also showed that a growing number of people are skeptical that the negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians will lead to a comprehensive solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Seventy percent of the public doubts that an agreement with Syria will bring a comprehensive solution (a rise of 23.7 percent from a June survey), while 60 percent expressed similar doubts about the talks with the Palestinians (10 percent more than in June.)

Nonetheless, there is little change in public support for continuing negotiations on both tracks. Some 57 percent support negotiations with the PLO, while 40 percent expressed unreserved support for the way the government is handling negotiations with Syria.

The poll was conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi firm for the Besa Center as part of a multi-year research project on public opinion on national security issues. Results were obtained by conducting face-to-face interviews with 1,204 Jewish Israelis from November 11 to November 25. The margin of error is 2.9 percent.

Peres Interviewed on Syrian, Palestinian Tracks

TA0712094594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Mr. Peres, would you describe al-Asad as wanting an agreement or as being eager to achieve it?

[Peres] Look, this is an issue for the dictionary or grammar books. Let us put things on the table: Al-Asad is posing conditions that are unacceptable in any negotiations. He wants Israel first of all to accept his positions, only then to conduct the negotiations. This is not serious. Nothing can be done in this manner. It is well known that the two sides to negotiations must appear with their opening positions prior to the negotiations, with no side dictating an opening position to the other. Al-Asad also seems to be interested in obtaining as much credit as he can from the Americans, Russians, Israelis, and Egyptians. Only at a later stage will he perhaps agree to conduct negotiations. At the same time he claims that nobody is willing to meet him halfway. What is he

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

talking about? Israel has already announced it accepts the principle of withdrawal and the principle of security arrangements that also take into consideration Syria's security needs. Israel has also announced its desire to attain true peace and has invited Syria to participate in the large-scale restructuring process taking place in the Middle East. One cannot continue to behave as a spoiled brat. There is no room for spoiled brats in negotiations, only for two equal sides.

[Gay] Following Christopher's visit Ambassador Rabinovich has spoken of an improved atmosphere. In what manner is this reflected?

[Peres] In the very fact that the negotiations continue, because negotiations call for patience. There are short-term negotiations with immediate results, but other negotiations have to be long-term in nature and have to pass through mine fields. I am one of those who believe that we should not mourn the negotiations, because they are not mortally ill—although it is true they are not undergoing the recovery process we would have liked to see. I am convinced Israel is really sincere in its desire to reach true peace despite the enormous difficulties. We have to overcome the residues of the past, terrorism, madmen, prejudices. We are perfectly aware of all the problems, yet we must decide where we are going to. It is possible to go backward. Some people yearn for this, longing for the time when we were in Gaza and Jericho, when there were no chances for peace and we had no peace with Jordan, when our economy was boycotted and we were isolated. I realize we are undergoing a difficult period, but we must keep sight of our target, and I am convinced we will reach it.

[Gay] Are there any chances of changing the negotiations format, or will they continue to be based on Warren Christopher's shuttle trips from Jerusalem to Damascus?

[Peres] Look, this is based entirely on the decision of one person. So far this person has held his cards extremely close to his chest, without revealing them to anybody else. He is acting in what he considers to be a wise manner, but I am not convinced he is right, because the negotiations with Syria are seriously lagging behind. Syria must explain what it has gained by this 15-year delay—I am not referring to Israel, but to their own self-interest. Israel is no beggar. Syria must explain to itself what it has gained by this delay.

[Gay] I want to speak to you about the negotiations with the Palestinians. The cabinet will shortly hold its second weekly meeting about these negotiations. Meanwhile, the talks have resumed in Cairo, but nothing special has taken place there so far.

[Peres] Look, every negotiations phase faces what is known as the obstacles stage. Whenever we start a new stage each side exposes the expected obstacles to be met along the way. Great difficulties are being met in Gaza, especially from the direction of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Nobody denies the fact that the PLO has abandoned the path of terrorism. They are slowly starting to get their act together in Gaza. I was extremely displeased with the reports and leaks by various people from the cabinet sessions. These people think they can foresee processes, although they have never done so in the past. The issue here is not bleak prophecies....

[Gay, interrupting] What are your feelings about the term Lebanonization?

[Peres] Let us say that there is such a phenomenon. What is the solution? Are things simple in Lebanon? Is it not true that our best sons fall in action there? Is there anything simple? These are sensationalistic statements. I do not believe there is a situation of Lebanonization in Gaza. In Lebanon the problem was totally different in several respects: First, there are two or three totally different communities—Christians, Sunnis, Shiites, and Druze. Gaza is homogeneous; it is Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian. We do not see there the unbridgeable gaps that exist in Lebanon. Another difference is that in Lebanon everyone is armed from head to foot. Everybody has sent weapons to Lebanon: Syria, Iran, and others. At one time or another the Lebanese have also enjoyed financial and military aid from other countries.

[Gay] Do you share the assessment that Gaza and Jericho First should also be Gaza and Jericho period?

[Peres] This is impossible. You cannot put a period there, because we are not dealing with a grammar book. It has transpired that the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria is larger than we thought. It is clear that every 15 years this population doubles. Someone must think about the future. We are not dealing here with proofreading or punctuation marks. I want to see somebody serious and responsible come and say what to do when Gaza no longer numbers 800,000 or 900,000 people, but rather 1,600,000 or 1,800,000 people. What will happen in Gaza or Judaea and Samaria then? We cannot simply proceed blindly, pronouncing niceties and exclaiming: We told you so. What did they tell us? How are we to solve the problem?

In Oslo we encountered a most difficult situation. Obstacles were put in our path with the intention of preventing us from reaching peace. Instead of praising us for our achievements they keep lecturing us and reproaching us for trying to solve this situation. What kind of logic is this?

[Gay] On Friday [9 December] you will travel to Oslo, and next week you will visit Ethiopia and Eritrea, which are added to the long list of countries resuming relations with Israel.

[Peres] Look, my ambition is to reach a majority of the Arab League countries. Today we have more or less formal relations with five Arab elements: Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and the Palestinians. I believe we can reach several more countries. We will ceaselessly strive until most of the Muslim and Arab countries have

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

relations with Israel. This too effects our negotiations with the Palestinians, the Lebanese, the Syrians, and everybody else.

[Gay] Finally, Mr. Peres, I want your reaction to the recent unrest in Labor. Some people, for example, are demanding to replace ministers.

[Peres] Look, this unrest is natural. We are approaching the elections, and the Knesset members [MK's] who want to be reelected face a very difficult period. To be frank and to avoid mere gossip I must say here that it will be more and more difficult to be elected within the framework of the primaries, because one needs money, time, and achievements. The primaries force everybody to see to his own interests, to act as an individual rather than as a member of a collective body. I must tell you that I am troubled by this issue, because the Knesset is made up of both individual MK's and a collective body bearing a collective responsibility. I am not one of those people who urges the MK's to forget their own interests. This is unnatural, because everybody takes care of his own interests, and I am no censor. We must create, however, some kind of collective responsibility for the good of the cause. The future primaries, however, are extremely difficult for the MK's, and from this point of view I foresee more and more difficulties. In my opinion we will have to deliberate two things: How to enable every MK to be reelected in a fair and democratic way, while at the same time ensuring the collective responsibility without which it is very difficult to act.

Beilin: AIPAC Criticism Sabotages PA Funding

TA0512133794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says that the United States has to show more involvement in the negotiations between Israel and Syria, and perhaps undertake extensive shuttle diplomacy similar to that conducted by Henry Kissinger.

In Beilin's view, President al-Asad is mistaken if he believes waiting several months or years will lead to greater Israeli concessions.

Deputy Minister Beilin told Qol Yisra'el he regretted AIPAC's [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] criticism of 'Arafat and said it is a grave error that sabotages Israel's efforts to encourage foreign states to contribute funds to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Orient House Guards Detained by Jerusalem Police

TA0412104694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two Orient House guards were detained by police yesterday for carrying ID cards identifying them as guards at the building, which serves as the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem police spokesman said police would confer with the District Attorney's Office this week to determine whether possession of the ID cards was a punishable offense. The cards were taken from the two guards, who were released after interrogation.

Some 150 Palestinian Ex-Prisoners Allowed To Return

TA0712100194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has allowed approximately 150 Palestinian prisoners, who were released to Jericho within the framework of the Cairo agreement, to return to their homes in the territories. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that half of the prisoners were sentenced to long prison terms and several to life terms. The Palestinians have submitted to the joint security committee a request to release more Palestinian prisoners who are about to finish serving their sentences or who have health problems.

Citizenship Granted to 618 Palestinian Collaborators

TA0512100194 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Dec 94 p 5

[Report by Amir Gilat]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The government has decided to grant Israeli citizenship to 618 Palestinian collaborators and their families. This was disclosed by Commander Yisra'el Sadan, head of the Police Ministry's operations command, in a meeting with Knesset Members Hashim Mahamid and Tamar Gozansky of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality].

Sadan told them that 194 collaborators live in Israeli Arab towns, while the other 424 live in Jewish locations and mixed towns.

It has further been learned that a circular issued by Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz urges commanders to enter a dialogue on the issue with the heads of Israeli Arab local authorities. [passage omitted]

Petitions on West Bank Construction 'Freeze' Rejected

TA0712120194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The High Court of Justice has rejected two petitions critical of government policy to freeze construction in Judaea and Samaria. The petitioners, the Qiryat Arba' Council and Amana, the Gush Emunim movement for settlement, claimed that the government has stopped building in the territories, attributing the move to new national priorities.

The justices said that the court would not intervene in political decisions as it did not rule on the legality of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

settlements. The justices also said the government policy does not discriminate against Jews or Arabs. They concluded that separate legislation is applied to Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria and a freeze on construction could be considered part of it.

Group Claims Arab Land Used for Jewish Housing

TA0612155294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over 30 percent of land annexed to Jerusalem after the Six Day War has been expropriated for use in Jewish housing developments, according to a report released yesterday by the newly formed 'Ir Shalem [ancient name for Jerusalem] group.

The report shows that "the Palestinian population in Jerusalem is included in the public from which lands are expropriated, but is not included in the public which the expropriations are meant to serve."

'Ir Shalem, a non-partisan group although closely connected with Peace Now, alleged that governments since Jerusalem's reunification have worked to take "control of private and public Arab properties in east Jerusalem."

It listed a series of expropriations carried out from 1968—when 3,345 dunams of east Jerusalem land were taken for the construction of the French Hill and Ramat Eshkol neighborhoods—through 1991, when 1,850 were expropriated for construction at Har Homa of a new southeastern Jerusalem Jewish neighborhood, also on lands annexed in 1967.

The report, released at a Jerusalem press conference, fails to note that some land in Har Homa was owned by Jews, wrongly implying that all the land expropriated in east Jerusalem was Arab-owned.

The report points out that the land was expropriated for "public use," although in not a single case was it used for Arab housing developments. Instead, a number of large Jewish neighborhoods were built there.

Some 33,500 units were built on the expropriated land, according to figures from August included in the report. Another 13,300 units are planned for the expropriated land. All are in Jewish neighborhoods.

'Ir Shalem is the spin-off of a similar group formed by Peace Now, and includes several leading Peace Now activists including Prof. Galya Golan, Prof. Mordekhay Bar-On, and Tzali Reshef.

Prof. Amnon Sela' and Jerusalem attorney Dani Seidermann, neither directly connected with Peace Now, are also on the group's board and also attended yesterday's press conference.

Editorial Views Government Attitude Toward 'Arafat

TA0612135294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Original Sin"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military intelligence head Maj.-Gen. Uri Sagi is not known for viewing developments in the Arab world pessimistically. On the contrary: He has been criticized for underplaying dangers, seeing positive changes where there are none, and supporting the government's peace moves to the point of politicizing his position. That on Sunday [4 December] he described the situation in Gaza as a Lebanonization process is therefore significant. In the language of the Middle East, this means that in the six months of Palestinian rule, Gaza has become a hopeless morass.

Nor is this merely Sagi's assessment. On Saturday, a NEW YORK TIMES story from Gaza by correspondent Yusuf Ibrahim painted a similar picture. The polarization of the Arab population has never been greater, he writes. Yasir 'Arafat, touted by government leaders and the world community as the only Palestinian leader acknowledged by all his people, is now seen as a mortal enemy by a large minority—if not a majority—of Palestinians.

The new graffiti in Gaza, painted on walls whitewashed at the cost of over $3 million only two months ago, rarely mentions Israel. "The villain is Mr. 'Arafat," writes Ibrahim, "and his armed Fatah militia and police force, who are denounced over and over again as 'killers of Palestinians,' 'bats of darkness,' 'Israel's loyal servants,' and the dogs of 'Arafat.'"

More important, 'Arafat is adding to his numerous violations of the Oslo agreement the rearming of the Fatah Hawks. He is creating another militia, unbound by the strictures which the Palestinian Police, financed by foreign contributors, still have to observe. It is only through this militia, which owes him personal allegiance, that he hopes to prevent Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from dislodging him from power.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tried yesterday to find differences between Gaza and the Lebanon of the 1970s and 1980s by pointing out that Lebanon had no central authority with an armed force to maintain law and order. But the fact is that 'Arafat's force is neither able nor willing to subdue his armed opposition. Nor is 'Arafat likely to succeed in applying the "divide and rule" tactics which he used so skillfully in Lebanon. As Hamas leader Mahmud al- Zahhar told the TIMES, each family in Gaza boasts members of different factions. To assume that they would fight each other for 'Arafat's sake is to expect the impossible.

Nor is 'Arafat's failure limited to the military sphere. As Sagi told the cabinet on Sunday, the PA [Palestinian Authority] has been a great disappointment in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

administrative and economic areas as well. Traditional PLO corruption and the imposition of 'Arafat's Tunisian court on local Israeli-trained bureaucrats, have made a shambles of the existing structure. And 'Arafat, instead of trying to introduce a semblance of order to the running of the PA, has been spending time and energy on ludicrous claims that Israel had "ruined the infrastructure."

It is under the shadow of this PA record that the Cairo talks are being resumed today. The prospect that the next scheduled step—an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullback from the "populated areas" followed by Palestinian elections—will be a security nightmare is giving the government pause. As outgoing chief negotiator and Coordinator of Activities in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Dani Rothschild put it, "Judaea and Samaria are more politically complex than Gaza, and given 'Arafat's track record, he will find it difficult to establish authority there." What this means is that once the army forfeits control of the Arab centers, the armed Palestinian militias will take over, and every Arab town and village in Judaea and Samaria will become a terrorist base.

The general perception, bolstered by government pronouncements, is that this development will endanger the 130,000 Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria, whose security remains the army's responsibility. It is for them that bypass roads will have to be built, and it is the protection of the isolated settlements that the army will find an impossible task. Rabin reinforced this impression yesterday, when he asserted that "some settlements are security disasters." This may signal an intention to "consolidate" the more remote communities by removing them to areas more densely populated by Jews.

But the security problem associated with the "settlements" is a red herring. The danger of relinquishing military control over the Arab population centers has as much to do with the safety of Israelis inside the Green Line as beyond it. As recent terrorist attacks should have made clear, the vulnerability to terror is just as great in 'Afula and Tel Aviv as it is on the most isolated road in Judaea. It is even possible that the settlers' constant vigilance makes them less likely victims.

The mistake is not the settlements—as some in the government now say in trying to explain the failure of the Oslo agreement—but the insane belief that 'Arafat can be transformed into a man of peace. That this belief is shared by the Nobel Prize committee makes it no less tragic and costly. This is the original sin from which all the government's current troubles flow. And the sooner the government recognizes and admits this blunder, the better it will fare with the nation and history.

German President Herzog Meets Rabin, Peres

TA0612183994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] German President Roman Herzog arrived in Israel today on his first official visit. He met this evening with families of missing Israeli servicemen and with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Miniter Peres. Herzog was officially welcomed at the presidential residence in Jerusalem this afternoon before going on to Yad Vashem. Dick Winter reports:

[Begin recording] [Winter] With the chilling, at least for Israelis', notes of the German national anthem, President Roman Herzog began his two-day official visit to Israel, only the second ever by a German president. He was welcomed by President 'Ezer Weizman who chose to speak, perhaps significantly, not in English but in Hebrew, declaring that although Germany continues to have a close and friendly relationship with Israel, the past cannot be forgotten and events that took place in Germany and in Europe will always, in Weizman's words, be before our eyes and in our minds. The German president, for his part, responded in kind.

[Herzog] The purpose of my stay in your country, Mr. President, is not merely to recall the past, traumatic as it is for Jews and shameful as it is for us Germans. I also see my visit as a signal for the future. A signal that we should strengthen the present solid basis of German-Israeli relations, spanning all past divisions, and make them more forward-looking and relaxed.

[Winter] Then, accompanied by Weizman, the German president went on to Yad Vashem. He laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance and spoke briefly afterwards to reporters in German. [passage omitted] I will make it my duty to be sure, said the German president, that such things never happen again. [end recording]

Rabin on Tokyo's Aid to PA, DPRK Missiles

OW0712005094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0021 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Dec. 6 KYODO—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin highly praised Tuesday [6 December] Japan's economic assistance to Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and West Bank town of Jericho prior to his scheduld visit to Japan from Dec. 12-14.

This year's Nobel Peace Prize winner Rabin also told Japanese reporters he hopes to boost bilateral business relations with Japan following the development of Middle East peace talks.

Rabin is scheduled to have talks with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and other politicians as well as Japanese business leaders during the Tokyo visit.

It will be the first visit by an Israeli prime minister to Tokyo.

At the briefing with Japanese reporters, Rabin expressed his concern about the possibility of North Korea's missile technology being exported to Iran, as the missile range between Iran and Israel is only 1,300 kilometers. He said he wants to discuss North Korea's missile issue with Japan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin said Israel will not join the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) because it lacks practical effect.

Rabin and Murayama are expected to discuss issues affecting the Middle East following the signing of a peace accord between Israel and Jordan last month, according to Japanese officials.

They are also likely to discuss Japanese assistance for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip and Tokyo's role in multilateral Middle East peace talks.

Rabin is scheduled to head for Seoul from Japan for a visit to South Korea from Dec. 14-17.

Gur on Iranian Purchase of Nodong Missiles

TA0712102694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Mr. Gur, YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes today that the Washington-based organ IRAN BRIEF claims Iran is building a missile that could hit Israel. This missile is reported to be faster and more dangerous than the Scud. What does Israel know about this missile, the Nodong-1?

[Gur] We know that Iran is maintaining contacts with North Korea in a bid both to purchase and to build a missile with a range of somewhat more than 1,300 km. We assume that they consider Israel—even if not only Israel—as the enemy, because with this range they can reach us. Over the last year we have taken many steps, on which I cannot elaborate....

[Friedman, interrupting] We are familiar with some political steps. We know that Foreign Minister Peres....

[Gur, interrupting] Yes, many steps have been taken.

[Dan] Are you concerned about this missile?

[Gur] Very much so. It is especially worrisome because when speaking about peace we are referring to the countries with which we have common borders. We are still facing a danger from the direction of the countries further away, the second-circle countries: Iraq, Iran, Libya, and Algeria. These countries are ruled by regimes that make it impossible for us to predict what will happen, therefore we must be ready to face any danger from that direction. The most serious danger is the missile danger, and one of the most important considerations in determining the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] and the defense establishment's structure and character over the next 10-15 years is our ability to confront such a danger from any direction—in terms of both early warning and thwarting the danger. This is an extremely expensive issue, but unfortunately we cannot avoid dealing with it. I hope that if we reach full peace with our neighbors the second-circle countries will not have the incentive to risk firing missiles at Israel, since it is such a powerful country. We cannot be sure, however, and we are, therefore, preparing ourselves.

Rabin Initiates Legislation To Regulate Shin Bet

TA0412163794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister has ordered the drafting of legislation that will regulate Shin Bet activities. The Prime Minister's Office's legal adviser has announced that a draft law will be submitted to the Justice Ministry within a few days. Justice Minister David Liba'i has said that the Shin Bet law is supposed to regulate the organization's methods, subordination, budget, and the way in which Shin Bet chiefs are appointed.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the High Court of Justice has received a petition from the Committee Against Torture demanding that the Shin Bet activity should be discontinued. One of the reasons cited in the petition is the absence of legal foundation for the organization's operations. The State Attorney's Office has categorically rejected this charge.

Shin Bet Arrests Over 20 Suspected Hamas Members

TA0612193094 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet is continuing to arrest Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Over 20 people have been arrested over the past few days on suspicion of belonging to the organization. Most of the arrests were carried out in the northern part of the West Bank which is the area where Yayha 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer, operates.

Coalition MK's Threaten To Join No-Confidence Vote

TA0612085094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Druze are not letting up and are now posing a real threat to the government's existence. Six coalition members—the five from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP], along with Labor Knesset Member [MK] Salah Tarif—announced that they will join the opposition's no-confidence vote because of the government's failure to comply with the Druze demands. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin Nir recording] The coalition is in trouble, and this time it could be serious. Five members from HADASH and the ADP, along with Labor MK Tarif, have announced that they will vote against the government if

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the latter does not heed the demands of the Druze and Circassian local authorities. The threat is clear: The 61-member coalition based on these MK's will lose its majority and will be supported by only 57 MK's versus the opposition's 58 MK's.

SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] turned down coalition chairman Eli Dayan's request to support the government, because it backs the Druze demands. Consequently, SHAS will abstain, as it usually does. The opposition majority therefore hinges on one vote: 58 versus 57.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat was astonished at hearing this, but nevertheless said he doubts the MK's will really go all the way and bring down the government. Arye Der'i said somewhat ironically that this will be an opportunity for the prime minister to form a new government to his liking because, in the current Knesset constellation, only Yitzhaq Rabin can form a government. In any event, a new crisis has just begun.

Meanwhile, the heads of the Druze and Circassian local authorities met last night with MK Der'i and asked him to arbitrate between them and the government. Der'i agreed on condition that his ruling is accepted unconditionally by all sides.

The bottom line: Here is yet another topic for a complex political game. [end recording]

No-Confidence Motions Submitted

TA0512115794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud Knesset faction has tabled a no—confidence motion in the government over its handling of the Druze community. The motion tabled by Knesset Member As'ad As'ad will be debated 12 December together with an NRP [National Religious Party] on the same issue.

Poll Gives Netanyahu 2% Edge Over Rabin

TA0612160994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 94 p 12

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An opinion poll shows Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu nearly tied, with Netanyahu showing a slight edge, but one that is less than the poll's margin of error.

In the latest poll conducted by Dahaf pollster Dr. Mina Tzemah, Netanyahu would have received 44 percent of the vote, had elections for prime minister been held last week, while Rabin would have garnered only 42 percent of the vote. The remainder of those questioned were undecided.

This latest poll is based on a representative sample of 504 people interviewed on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of last week. The margin of error is 3 percent.

Tzemah has been conducting polls of this nature periodically; they are not commissioned by any party or outside organization.

This continues the pattern of parity or slight advantage for Netanyahu, which has been evident for the past eight months. The only recent exception came immediately after the signing of the peace agreement with Jordan, when Rabin climbed to 46 percent and Netanyahu dropped to 42 percent.

This nearly reversed the standings that immediately followed the bus bombing in Tel Aviv, when Rabin dropped to 42 percent and Netanyahu went up to 47 percent.

The latest poll was conducted, in part, following last week's murder of Li'at Gabay in 'Afula by an ax-wielding Palestinian.

Political observers note that the close results indicate that Rabin's political fortunes could be upset by any undesirable development. They said that fortuitous developments, such as the peace treaty, are much less common.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

King Husayn Meets With Israel's Netanyahu

TV Interviews Leaders

JN0612200494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1817 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Report by Muhammad Khayr al-Burini—italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening Binaymin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud Party and member of Knesset. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting. During the meeting, discussions dealt with bolstering action during the next stage in the interest of the Jordanian and Israeli peoples and the region in general.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent, in progress]*...ideas with Mr. Netanyahu. Do you find Mr. Netanyahu's way of thinking relevant to the peace process in the region?*

[Husayn] *I believe that in all that we have discussed so far, [words indistinct] the ideas relevant, but I really [words indistinct] achieved so far for a better future for our peoples in both Israel and Jordan and the future of the region.*

[Correspondent] *How do you see the role of the Israeli opposition in supporting the peace process, particularly now with this important stage]*

[Husayn] *I believe that one of the very distinct realities, very clear realities, was the fact that the peace treaty received the unlimited support of both the major parties in Israel.*

[Correspondent, interrupting] *...even quite a few of the (?modern) parties in Israel?*

[Husayn] [Words indistinct] *and as far we are concerned [words indistinct] the majority as well.*

[Murid Hammad, Jordan Television correspondent] *How do you see your role now from the opposition side also with the peace process now that Israel [words indistinct] goes to another important set of negotiations with the Syrians?*

[Netanyahu] *There is no opposition to peace in Israel. There is a loyal opposition that loyally supports any genuine peace that Israel has with any Arab country and any Arab party. This is the peace we have with Jordan. It is a peace that received the support of almost the entire Israeli public—opposition and coalition alike—and we must say that in this very hospitable visit to King Husayn's quarters here with the king and Crown Prince Hasan and confirmed in the sincerity of desire for peace, for a genuine peace, peace of prosperity and peace of security that we have with Jordan. And, I think that this reflects our policy and will continue to reflect our policy.* [end recording]

Earlier, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan held a meeting with Mr. Netanyahu, who arrived in Amman today on a one-day visit. During the meeting, they discussed the future of regional peace and ways of supporting it in the interest of peoples of the region. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to his majesty the king; 'Awn al-Khasawinah, legal adviser to his Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Michel Hamarinah, the director of his highness the crown prince's office.

Afterward, his highness, accompanied by the Israeli guest, visited the monument of the unknown soldier in al-Karamah, where Mr. Netanyahu placed a wreath to commemorate the souls of the al-Karamah battle martyrs.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu in al-Karamah, interspersed with Hasan voicing assent] *Many casualites were lost, many dead, quite a few wounded, and I think it would be the best symbol of peace if we can have this joint monument, I think its an excellent idea.*

His Highness Prince Hasan emphasized Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and all their establishments and by all possible means. He also emphasized the importance of participation of all shades of Israeli political spectrum in the development of the region and in the continuation of dialogue between all political parties.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] *Some of the Likud leaders talked about alternative homeland. Have you convinced Mr. Netanyahu that this is not the solution?*

[Hasan] *I would not presume for a moment to speak for Mr. Netanyahu on this subject. All I would say is that as far as we are concerned, what is important is that there is a definable Israel today and a definable Jordan. And definable not only in terms of borders, but definable in terms of economic parameters, social parameters, legal parameters, and I think that this is a threshold which we have to consolidate.*

[Correspondent] *What's Mr. Netanyahu's comment on this?*

[Netanyahu] *I couldn't agree more. I think this is an apt summation of our view.*

[Hammad] *One major concern—for not just Jordanians, may be Arabs at large—that Israel's territorial claims, so called Eretz Israel or Greater Israel, and of course the other alternative country as my colleague said here. Is this over and out now?*

[Netanyahu] *Well, I think that there is no question that we in the Likud believe that the integrity of Jordan, and of the present government in Jordan is in Israel's interest. It's not against our interests. It's very much within our interests and in our interests. And that I've said publicly many times.*

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Hasan] In fact what we have are not talks, but an exchange of views on this stage, and emphasis on full commitment—which includes the Israeli political parties—to implement the cooperation programs, which are international programs to develop this region of the world. If we speak about integral development of the region within the framework of the Jordan Rift Valley, there are international investments expected, and the credibility of these investments will be proven through the seriousness of the concerned parties in fulfilling what they promised in terms of development ideas and planning.

[Correspondent] Sir, have you felt a commitment, support, or tendency by the so-called Israeli opposition to support the peace process in its wider form?

[Hasan] I think that there is a full commitment by the Israeli opposition. As we remember, 105 of the Knesset members voted for this agreement. I think that the people who received us when I accompanied his majesty the king during our visit to Kinneret in the Tiberias area some days ago truly demonstrated the emotions and mind of the Israeli public opinion and all its parties.

[Correspondent] *[Words indistinct] the Israeli Government shouldn't negotiate with the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat. Did you try to help even to find an alternative that can represent the Palestinian people?*

[Hasan] *I really want to say very clearly that we are fully supportive of the desire of the Palestinian people to further discussions with the Government of Israel. We are supportive of institution-building by the Palestinian people. We are supportive of the creation of a stable dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian people. We abhor violence and act against it. And we look to the international community as we did as part of the donors conference meeting most recently held in Brussels for further convincing evidence of a desire to develop the right of the Palestinian people in their search for a better quality of life. I think that the reasons for extremism are disposition, despair, poverty, unemployment. I think that the turn to religion is naturally understood in these circumstances, or in many circumstances, but I think it's vitally important to recognize that the Palestinian question—as indeed the aspirations of the Israeli people or the aspirations of the Jordanian people—are very much a human concern.* [end recording]

Netanyahu and his delegation left Jordan across King Husayn Bridge.

Damascus Reports on Meetings

JN0712072494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—King Husayn of Jordan has hailed what he called Israel's peace policy and the position of Israel—government and opposition—toward the peace process. Meanwhile, Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud opposition party, has underlined his rejection of the requirements of the just and comprehensive peace and of complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

King Husayn and Netanyahu held their first public meeting yesterday in one of the royal palaces in Amman with Crown Prince Hasan in attendance. Talks focused on strengthening ties between Jordan and Israel in compliance with the peace treaty, which specified 23 agreements covering all aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Netanyahu said the October [1973] liberation war was an aggression against Israel to justify Israel's adherence to the occupation of Arab territories. He claimed that the aggressive Israeli positions on the Golan Heights are not an obstacle to peace.

King Husayn and Netanyahu agreed that there is no opposition to the peace process in Israel, as opposition there is constructive. They were both referring to the Likud's approval of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Netanyahu said his meeting with King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan shows that the Likud does not oppose the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

It is well known that from the opposition seats, the Likud categorically rejects any withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories or the evacuation of any settlement built in the occupied territories for purposes of expansion and aggression.

In a related development, the first meeting of the Jordanian-Israeli joint committee is scheduled to start in Dayr 'Alla, the Jordan Valley, today. The committee will discuss the implementation of the peace treaty that was signed by the two parties. The committee will discuss the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, which stipulate that plans must be set to execute 24 projects within a period not exceeding nine months after the exchange of the documents ratifying the agreement; that is, after August [as heard] of this year.

Paper Says Israeli Mission To Intensify Intelligence

JN0512103594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Dec 94 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation arrived in Amman yesterday to look for buildings that will house the Israeli Embassy in Amman, the ambassador's residence, and embassy staff. The head of the ministry's resources department heads the five-member delegation.

The delegation will spend several days in Amman to prepare for the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Amman on Sunday [11 December].

As the date of 12 December set for exchanging diplomatic missions between Jordan and Israel gets closer, ranking political sources in Amman expect the Israelis to intensify their intelligence activities in the Jordanian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

arena on three levels. The first is to protect their diplomatic mission from any armed attack. The second is to try to benefit from the diplomatic immunity and the peace atmosphere to penetrate Jordanian political, economic, and social sectors in the service of the strategic Zionist objective of imposing complete control on the Arab region. As for the third, Israel will try to use the Jordanian territory as a platform for espionage activities on some neighbor Arab countries. [passage omitted]

First: With respect to the preparations to protect the embassy, observers have noticed that there were recent advertisements in the daily press by a foreign diplomatic mission, whose identity was not disclosed, soliciting offers from real estate owners for buildings in the 'Abdun area and the Seventh Circle. Upon verification of these advertisements it was found that the telephone number to be contacted by those who have houses for rent belongs to the U.S. Embassy, and that the above mentioned diplomatic mission is the Israeli diplomatic mission. [passage omitted]

'High-Ranking' Palestinians Arrive for Talks

JN0712100594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Dec 94 pp 1, 24

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking Palestinian delegation arrived in Amman yesterday. The delegation will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on the return of displaced people and arrangements to call on the four-party committee to hold its first meeting. This committee includes representatives from Jordan, Egypt, the National Authority, and Israel.

The Palestinian delegation includes Dr. Salim Tamari, Ahmad Bayyud al-Tamimi, Dr. 'Aziz 'Amr, and Walid Zaqqut.

The delegation is expected to meet today with its Jordanian counterpart, which includes Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, 'Asim Ghawshah, Muhammad al-'Adwan, and Muhammad 'Ali al-Humud, in order to lay the foundations for coordination in the meetings of the four-party committee, which will seek to solve the problems of 800,000 displaced people.

It is worth noting that according to the Oslo agreement, the Palestinian National Authority and Israel are the ones authorized to call on the committee to meet.

King Accepts Deputy Prime Minister's Resignation

JN0712112394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 94 p 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Lamis K. Andoni]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn Tuesday [6 December] accepted the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi but no reshuffle or change in the Cabinet was expected prior to the ratification of the 1995 fiscal budget that will be debated in Parliament today.

Political analysts expected the veteran politician's withdrawal from the cabinet to weaken the government's position during the parliamentary debate on an already controversial budget.

Although differences between Mr. al-Hindawi and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali were well-known, his sudden resignation came as a surprise especially that Mr. al-Hindawi was personally brought to the Cabinet upon a request by King Husayn.

In his resignation letter Mr. al-Hindawi cited "lack of achievement and cloudiness" of government policies. Well-informed analysts, including Parliament members and former ministers, were divided on assessing the motivations behind Mr. al-Hindawi's resignation.

While some viewed it as a strong political statement to protest against the government's management of the peace era others dismissed it as an attempt to undermine the Cabinet and consequently accelerate the process of its departure from the scene.

"It will not work. The Palace has traditionally refused to act under pressure," said one critic of Mr. al-Hindawi's decision.

But various accounts of what happened at the last Cabinet meeting attended by the former deputy minister suggest that even if Mr. al-Hindawi was indeed trying to weaken the government there were significant differences over how to manage the peace era.

According to one account, Mr. al-Hindawi has not been pleased with the government's performance since the first day he was included in it as part of a major reshuffle on June 8, but it was his expressed reservations about the government's efforts to ensure financial aid to Jordan that prompted him to leave.

During a Cabinet meeting he attended the Saturday before last, one well-placed source said, Mr. al-Hindawi reacted negatively when the planning minister told the Cabinet that he had instructed the ministry's staff to draw up plans for specific projects that will enable Jordan to ask for aid from Europe. The minister explained that the step was necessary since Jordan could no longer expect direct government-to-government financial aid but rather to finance specific projects.

Mr. al-Hindawi was not available yesterday to explain his position, but, according to different sources, he felt that the clear implications of the minister's words were that the government was not really sure that financial aid to Jordan was guaranteed after its signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

Parliamentary critics of Mr. al-Hindawi dismissed his objection as a pretext to justify his "pre-planned" resignation. The critics suggest that Mr. al-Hindawi employed what he saw as the government's "inability to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

fulfill promises it made to the Jordanian people" to step up his "power struggle" with Dr. al-Majali.

Sympathisers with Mr. al-Hindawi, on the other hand, say he was expressing real concern that the government had been unnecessarily raising high expectations among Jordanians about post-peace prosperity.

Another colleague of Mr. al-Hindawi, Minister of Education Dr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, is said to have also expressed his disappointment after hearing the minister of planning's report.

When Mr. al-Rawabidah was contacted by the JORDAN TIMES yesterday he refused to make any comment on the affair but referred to Mr. al- Hindawi as "my respected colleague and teacher."

Mr. al-Rawabidah will now automatically assume the role of deputy prime minister since he is the most senior member of Cabinet after Dr. al-Majali.

Mr. al-Hindawi enjoys considerable support among members of Parliament and he may decide to go public with his criticism of the government.

His critics are sceptical of how Mr. al-Hindawi, who has showed that he could be an impeccable opponent of governments in the past, could possibly oppose a budget he had taken part in formulating.

It is unclear how Mr. al-Hindawi's resignation will affect his role in the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Reform that was once viewed as "a second Cabinet" when it was first formed.

According to one theory, Mr. al-Hindawi, who came to the government to play a key role in running internal affairs had inaccurately assumed that his membership in the commission gave him powers that could override those of the prime minister.

Parliamentary sources quoted ministers as constantly complaining that the rivalry and the conflicting styles of the two strong men, Dr. al-Majali and Mr. al-Hindawi, resulted in a Cabinet with two heads.

Those sources cite, among the issues that constituted a point of contention between Dr. al-Majali and Mr. al-Hindawi, the latter's opposition to recent reshuffles and appointments of senior judges. Mr. al-Hindawi is said to have opposed the appointments on the basis that they represented an interference in the otherwise independent judiciary system of the country.

Mr. al-Hindawi himself was a member of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i cabinet in the late 1980s when it made sweeping changes in the Supreme Court that were strongly attacked by legal experts and human rights activists at the time.

But some former ministers also cite his role in the first Cabinet of al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir that oversaw the transformation to the democratisation and liberalisation of Jordan's political system.

Mr. al-Hindawi's resignation letter and other sources indicate that he did not feel that he enjoyed enough power to assume his role properly and effectively.

An official source, however, strongly disagreed, saying that Mr. al-Hindawi "did not lack the power (in his capacity as deputy prime minister)."

Analysts, who understand the implications of Mr. al-Hindawi's resignation, argue that Mr. al-Hindawi might have jeopardised his own chances of becoming the next prime minister by announcing his sudden resignation.

Royal Decree Endorses Resignation

JN0612163094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A royal decree has been issued endorsing the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi as of yesterday [5 December].

Al-Hindawi tendered his resignation from the government yesterday. Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said the following to the Jordanian News Agency: I recall the extent of my pride in the friendship with His Excellency brother Dhuqan al-Hindawi and how fraternal and dear our relationship has been.

Dr. al-Majali added: I respect and appreciate al-Hindawi's views. He chose to leave the service and not to continue his membership in this government for reasons which are appreciated. Al-Majali asserted that His Excellency al-Hindawi exerted utmost and sincere efforts during this membership.

King Says Country 'An Example To Follow' in Region

JN0612173494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Report by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab—italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said: We will be an example to be followed in the region in terms of implementing democracy. In statements to the Netherlands Television, his majesty added:

[King Husayn, in progress] *...be an example to others in terms of its upholding of democracy and pluralism, respect for human rights; and I believe that the people of Jordan are prepared and ready to contribute in this new era of peace much more than they were in the past.*

Regarding the relationship between Jordan and the Netherlands, his majesty added:

We are extremely close, and we are very, very good friends, and our relations are based on mutual respect, cooperation, and a desire to see it grow far beyond that.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

And on the bilateral level as well as beyond with Europe, Holland will always have a very special role. And it has won—as far as we are concerned—a very special place in our hearts.

His majesty's gave the interview before he and Her Majesty Queen Nur received Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and Prince Claus at al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. They exchanged souvenir gifts.

Column Rejects 'Prosecution' of Press

JN0512082494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 05 Dec. 94, p 6

["Human Rights File" column by Dr. Walid M. Sa'adi: "Freedom of the Press Is a Measure of Democracy,"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In practically all democratic nations of the world, chief editors and reporters of newspapers and other publications are deemed "holy cows" that cannot be touched, kicked around or arrested on flimsy accusations of suspicions. This is the sacred law of the democratic club of which we are proud members.

The norm in the democratic world is to confine the "prosecution" of the members of the press to the absolute minimum situations when criminal intent is clear and loud and national security is in fact threatened. The rule of the thumb in this context is to show that the responsible editor or reporter has not only published wrong information but has knowingly done so in fact or in law. Otherwise, the standard on which other free and democratic countries operate calls for instituting civil cases against any member of the press for publishing false information that cause measurable damage to the complainant.

We in Jordan still go around jumping the gun by taking criminal action against members of the press even when national security is not at stake. A case in point was the arrest of the chief editor of Al-RASIF tabloid for publishing false information about the professional conduct of a certain physician by alleging, falsely as it turned out to be, that the operation he had conducted on a patient led to his paralysis. Allegations about professional negligence are widespread in many parts of the world but there is no precedent that I know of that led to criminal prosecution of the reporter or the editor of the publication that reported the news. This is where we seem to be on a different wavelength from other nations of the world and this is where we have to correct our ways and make them harmonious with the relevant international standard

There is a clear human rights issue here because freedom of the press is one of the most cherished element of human rights and among the most enshrined. There is obviously a strong case for nurturing responsible and accurate journalism, but there are ways other than precipitous criminal prosecution against members of the press that knowingly or unknowingly published a false piece of information. If the subject matter is of no concern to state security and does not appear to jeopardise public order, then it would be better to leave the adjudication of all disputes arising therefrom to civil courts. If there is a report about a certain malpractice, there is every reason to encourage public knowledge about it, provided the reporting is done fairly and squarely by giving each party its due and letting the reader decide.

We in Jordan have suffered a great deal from lack of dissemination of information about professional malpractices in various fields. Many professional ill-doings go on unreported and at the other end our people suffer and end up paying the price.

The level of professionalism cannot be expected to improve unless every case of malpractice reaches the public in a professional way. Our doctors, engineers and other professionals are certainly not infallible. Yet we hardly hear or learn about the untold sufferings or even deaths that result from such malpractices.

As far as I can tell, unlike more advanced nations, we still do not have the culture to expose threats to life and limb. That is why so many tragedies in medicine or otherwise go on undetected and are swept under the carpet. The biggest casualty in this case could be the quality of professional services in addition to the cost to Jordanians in terms of their lives and well-being.

In retrospect, our authorities should refrain from impeding the free and responsible flow of information about local issues by lodging criminal proceedings against journalists when the cumulative effect of such actions could inhibit public knowledge about matters that touch them most directly. When, for example, a certain researcher at the University of Jordan discovers during her research that there is simply too much DDT found in Jordanian mothers' milk, criminals prosecution should be directed against those responsible for this dismal state of affairs and not those who expose the danger. Similarly, when there are persistent medical reports that cancer cases in the country are on the rise, the public prosecutor should think in terms of bringing those responsible to justice instead of seeking the "informers" for possible criminal prosecution. And why not bring criminal charges for a change against farmers who still use pesticides and insecticides in a criminal way on vegetables and fruits that end up on our dining table. This is not to suggest that press people are untouchable and are immune from all legal prosecution. Rather, it is a plea for an equally responsible criminal prosecution policy across the board.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Hariri Pledges Effort To Rebuild State

NC0612123694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1118 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Statement by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri at the B'abda Palace on 6 December—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother citizens: For as long as I have been honored to speak from this position I have been trying with all the sincere and honest people in Lebanon to contribute to initiating a new era of national and political action that could effectively enable us to live up to the great challenges facing us. To that end, we have pursued a clear-cut approach that does not follow the traditions prevailing in our political life, traditions that seem to be mostly rejected and condemned by the Lebanese public. We have agreed to place ourselves, our integrity, dignity, and the people's confidence in us in the face of all the attacks, accusations, and campaigns launched against us so that the country and its national and development drive may not be subjected to any setback. But this drive did not escape harm. We have all seen how many quarters have subjected it to infamy, distortion, and sensationalism until things reached the point where there were strenuous attempts to stop the wheel of progress, development, and reconstruction in all the proposed avenues of advance. We firmly believe that a strong Lebanon is bound to head for and reach these avenues within the coming few years, considering the development and economic race the region is witnessing as well as the preparations the others have made while some of us are still living with illusion.

The picture of Lebanese political life in the past few weeks was not up to the standard to which the Lebanese aspire. It looked broken and shattered as a result of the words directed against it, words that went as far as to undermine the state's integrity and slander its figures and institutions, as if someone wanted to obstruct everything, belittle every role, and cast doubts in every direction. In light of this, we had to live up to our responsibilities, ring the alarm bell, and move within a framework that could safeguard the drive to rebuild the state. In this regard we have affirmed what we committed ourselves to in the past two years, namely, that we will not give up the plan to rebuild the state or its development plan, whether we are in or out of power. We have stood in the position of defending the plan to rebuild the country. From this position we will strive to renew confidence in the regime and enable political conduct to sign up for the process of national development. There will be no retreat from the plan to rebuild the state no matter what the challenges and difficulties are. There will be no retreat from the development and reconstruction program while Lebanon's future depends on initiating, drafting, and implementing it and protecting it from a fall. We say this with high hopes that we will cooperate in debating, translating, and putting it into practice according to the norms and through the competent authorities, under the constant, continuing, and required supervision of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who has endured the burdens of the past few years and patiently withstood the storms of those conspiring against the state and its institutions.

While seeking to heal the wounds sustained in political life in recent weeks, I would like to note that cooperation among the state's institutions is the cornerstone of any success in the state's march.

This was the basis for the meeting that we—his excellency the president, His Excellency Speaker Nabih Birri, and I— held today. Naturally the meeting derived its own importance from the circumstances that have recently surrounded the political and governmental action and from the need to tackle them on a national, wise, and sound basis.

This meeting is the key to a serious phase of action. We will exert every possible effort to give it shape within the framework of the constitutional establishments. We are all convinced that the state of law, constitution, and establishments is the real and effective response to the state of chaos and vituperation and that protection of the process of reconstruction and development can only go ahead by adopting this option and through clear solidarity in making it effective.

We reviewed the general situation and dealt with all the topical issues. We will continue in the coming days what we have started and will announce every step at the proper time. We stress that the sensitivity of the stage needs the highest level of wisdom and solidarity and that the country must be spared personal conjecture and analyses.

We heard a detailed assessment from His Excellency President al-Hirawi. We agreed on the need to face the stage with the national responsibility it deserves and with the actions and the deeds that we must prepare for it. We are fully confident that his excellency the president will undertake the tasks imposed on him by his national and constitutional responsibilities, not least of which is defending public order and preventing any tampering with the state's fate.

While not allowing the country to move toward the unknown, it goes without saying that we stress—together with His Excellency President al-Hirawi, His Excellency Speaker Birri, and all those devoted to Lebanon's unity, safety, and progress—that we will not agree to let the situation continue at it has recently.

We will give—we have already given—everything we can to build the state and strengthen its status and credibility before the Lebanese and the outside world. We will cooperate with all the faithful people in Lebanon and with the brothers whose concern for and solidarity with Lebanon we appreciate. I mention in particular the brothers in the Syrian leadership led by President Hafiz

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

al-Asad, who have always been faithful to the process of peace, reconstruction, and liberation in Lebanon.

Brother citizens, I am avoiding using any words connected with the circumstances that recently surrounded the political and governmental position, because I want to tell all the Lebanese that the age of solving crises in the traditional way is over and that the file we want to open today is the one that will give the right image of the state and its establishments. It is the file of a complete and comprehensive advance, of rising from vituperation to a political life stamped by the establishments, the file of rising from the consequences of war to a strong and modern state.

I can only thank the fraternal and friendly countries and the political and spiritual leaderships that have expressed their solidarity with us and express deep appreciation for His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who favored us today with his care and nobility, particularly as he will remain the arbiter in letter and spirit. These are my words to the Lebanese today. This is my pledge to them today, the pledge of yesterday and the pledge of tomorrow, the pledge of building the state. May you and Lebanon live long.

Buwayz on Government Resignation, Mudslinging

NC0512155694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Dec 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 5 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] What is your comment on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour?

[Buwayz] Although it is unlikely that extraordinary achievements will be realized during this tour, this tour is still necessary in order to keep the talks on the burner. This tour is also necessary to prove that the U.S. mediation role continues to exist and to affirm in the wake of the U.S. elections that this role is permanent and continuous. I believe that this tour has some benefits, even if we acknowledge in advance that it will not achieve a big breakthrough.

[Correspondent] There is fear that the peace process will be frozen in the wake of the U.S. elections. Do you believe these elections have had a negative effect on the peace process?

[Buwayz] Naturally, the U.S. elections, which have produced a victory for the Republicans, might be translated into a new political pattern for the United States. This is already evident in the preliminary stands of the majority leader regarding the role of the U.S. army abroad, regarding foreign aid, and regarding his relationship with President Clinton. Hence, there is one viewpoint that says that the talks have been frozen in one way or another until a new U.S. stance is formulated. I believe the Republicans have not yet studied the political files. Their stands will depend on their study of these files and the requirements of the U.S. role in the world. Therefore, I imagine that if it is true that the talks are frozen now, this is a temporary situation until a new U.S. stance is formulated.

[Correspondent] What has happened to the government's resignation?

[Buwayz] I believe if there is a possibility of forming a new government better than this government, national interests are supreme. If we really believe that the continuation of this government is necessary, even for a limited period, it is necessary to solve some problems within the government or between the government and some establishments, including the Chamber of Deputies, so that it will complete its mission. Therefore, I am the first to say that, if there is a possibility of forming a new government, let it be so. However, if this is difficult, there must be national detente and accord on the requirements for the continuation of the present government in an acceptable way, especially in this delicate phase.

[Correspondent] Today, you received a French delegation that said it is investigating the fate of seven missing Jews?

[Buwayz] Today I received a French delegation led by a former minister. The delegation raised the issue of human rights and some missing persons from the Jewish community during the war in Lebanon. I affirmed to this delegation that those missing are part of a great number of Lebanese from all communities and from all areas who were the victims of this war. Distinguishing between one community and another is not correct. Whenever it has accurate information on the fate of missing people, the Lebanese state does not hesitate to show an interest in the subject. Since the delegation raised the issue of human rights in general, I affirmed to the delegation that there are Lebanese detainees who have been languishing in Israeli prisons for several years. They have not been referred to any judicial authority according to internationally recognized judicial regulations. Investigations have not been held with them so far. Some of them do not even know the reason for their arrest. They are being held in illegal detention centers that are not up to legal specifications for prisons in the world. No world or humanitarian organization visits them. Some of them have died in prison and others have been tortured. Dealing with human rights issues in the world according to different measurements and standards is unacceptable. This delegation must visit Israel. We provided it with a complete file on the plight of Lebanese detainees. As a human rights committee, this delegation must raise this issue before anything else. I believe this approach met with the delegation's approval. I asked the delegation to meet with some members of the human rights committee in Lebanon and with some members of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

committee in defense of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons. I believe such a meeting will take place this afternoon.

[Correspondent] What is your comment on the current mudslinging in the country, and what is the effect of this on Lebanon's credibility in the world and on the march toward development and reconstruction?

[Buwayz] It is very painful that, after emerging from a long war, we are witnessing this mudslinging. I believe that indiscriminate bombardment of a new kind after we believed we got rid of indiscriminate bombardment during the war shakes the foundations of this homeland even more than the war. Therefore, I believe that, more than ever before, Lebanon needs to prove its credibility and its ability to exist, to continue, and to triumph more than it needs to give proof that is not worthy of running its affairs and is unable to achieve national sovereignty. Therefore, I believe any escalation in the current mudslinging only serves the enemies of this homeland. During a long war Lebanon passed through very difficult conditions during which law and order were absent. All the peoples of the world have passed through such phases and broken law and order. I believe that returning to the past and remaining hostage to it with its differences and practices does not help us to view positively the future of this homeland. Therefore, I believe mudslinging from any party is unjustified. I call on all to realize the delicate nature of the current situation and phase. Perhaps it is the most critical phase since Lebanon's independence and even since before Lebanon's independence. The coming months will define Lebanon's position, role, survival, and sovereignty of this homeland. Dealing with this situation in this light-headed method only serves those who want to prove that Lebanon is not worthy to exist.

Syria Reportedly Seeking To Defuse Crisis

MM0612160594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus and AL-HAYAH Bureau in Beirut: "Damascus Prefers Withdrawal of al-Hariri's Resignation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As usual, the government crisis yesterday took the Damascus route. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri sought the arbitration of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who, it has been rumored, suggested a number of solutions including a renewal of the Chamber of Deputies' confidence in the government after submission of the resignation request to President al-Hirawi, who would then reject it, whereupon the chamber too would reject the resignation.

It became clear yesterday that the Syrian leadership does not favor a government change at this time and counsels cooperation between the three leaders [al-Hirawi, Birri, and al-Hariri] in a way that would later lead to a cabinet reshuffle agreed by them. [passage omitted]

AL HAYAH has learned that Birri and al-Hariri held separate "intial contacts" with Syrian officials before meeting jointly with Khaddam. Informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that al-Hariri will most probably withdraw his resignation in return for "new guarantees" that would give his government "wider powers" in the face of al-Hariri's critics, especially Birri.

The sources said that "Syria is emphasizing that Lebanon should avoid any political or governmental shocks at this stage as the peace negotiations with Israel become one of Syrian diplomacy's top priorities." They added that Damascus "was trying to calm the situation as it prepared to receive U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the end of this current week." [passage omitted]

Israeli Reportedly Killed in Hizballah Attack

NC0612172994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions, Amal, launched an attack with machine guns against the 'Alman position of the enemy and its agents at 1610 today. Clashes ensued between the group and the garrison manning the position in which members of the garrison were killed and wounded. Immediately afterward, the occupation troops bombarded the outskirts of the villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Frun, Qa'qa'iyyat al-Jisr, and al-Ghanduriyah, as well as the Litani River basin.

Another group this morning carried out an attack against the Israeli occupation position in al-Dabshah and engaged its guards in a clash with machine guns and rockets. No information is available on the outcome of that attack.

AFP cited Israeli military sources as saying that an Israeli soldier was seriously wounded today when an explosive charge went off as a patrol was passing along the central sector of the occupied border strip.

As of 1730, enemy warplanes started to fly at a very low altitude over the central sector, dropping thermal balloons and lighting the skies with scores of bombs.

REUTER later cited security sources as saying that an Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded in Ra's al-Bayyadah. The sources said that an explosive charge went off as an Israeli patrol was passing through the area.

AFP cited a Hizballah spokesman claiming responsibility for that operation.

IDF Soldier Killed in Explosion in South

TA0712062294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Israeli soldier has been killed and another badly wounded by a roadside charge

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in south Lebanon. The soldier killed, a member of the Nahal Brigade, is 20-year-old Staff Sergeant Avi Abukasis from Dimona. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says Sergeant Abukasis was on foot patrol near Ra's al-Bayyadah on the Lebanese coast late yesterday afternoon when the charge exploded, killing him and badly wounding another member of the patrol. The injured man was evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The other members of the patrol opened fire toward the direction they believed their attackers to be, and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery and gunships were also called into action. Hizballah later claimed responsibility for the attack.

The commander of the sector has conducted an initial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. The Northern Command will today examine whether the soldiers followed procedures to locate explosive charges and to make sure the road ahead of the patrol was clear.

In another incident yesterday mortars were fired at an SLA [South Lebanese Army] post at al-Shumariyah in the central sector of the security zone. No one was hurt, nor was damaged caused, and fire was returned.

Fadlallah Reacts to Alleged Mosad Hit List

NC0612192694 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 25 Nov 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the massacre perpetrated by the self-rule authority in Gaza was a premeditated act, just like the massacre planned by the Lebanese Government on 13 September [when Lebanese soldiers fired at a Hizballah-sponsored demonstration, killing about 10 people]. He said that the self-rule authority through the massacre was seeking a certificate of good conduct from the Americans and the Israelis. He pointed out that "the Islamists are not enjoying free movement not because they cannot confront the self-rule authority but because they are 'the mother of the child.'"

Fadlallah stressed that "Israel is America's illegitimate son and the United States serves Israel more than the latter serves itself."

He said: "When we confront Israel, we confront the United States in depth because it guarantees Israel's security, politics, and economy."

His eminence was speaking after his weekly lesson on the interpretation of the Koran. Asked about a report in AL-DIYAR, based on a story in a French weekly, that his name is on the top of an Israeli Mosad list of those to be assassinated, Fadlallah said: "I was not surprised by this news. Since I started my practical life in the service of Islam more than 40 years ago, I have known that this road is not strewn with roses or even thorns, but with mines. In my life I have been the target of more than one assassination attempt by more than one Arab or American side. Most prominent among those attempts was the Bi'r al-'Abd bomb attack [in Beirut's southern suburb in 1985]. The CIA admitted that it, in cooperation with the Lebanese and some Arab intelligence, was behind that attack. This was published in American newspapers and in some books representing the memoirs of the CIA director."

Fadlallah added: "I therefore know that the stage we are passing through is one of the most difficult and that those who are standing firmly in the confrontation arena are facing major threats."

He continued: "We are religiously entrusted to remain in the arena of confrontation—no matter how small our influence—with all the mujahidin, with all Islamists in the world, with the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, with the Islamic intifadah in Palestine, and with Muslim Iran and its wise leadership. We will remain in the arena confronting world arrogance, Zionist arrogance, and internal injustice in any country so that we can be on the side of God's good people everywhere against God's enemies everywhere." [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Asad, Christopher Hold 'Serious' Talks

JN0612192294 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at the People's Palace at 1200 today U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, they held serious talks on the peace process and the Syrian track. They also exchanged views concerning this track, elements of the peace process, and ways to push it toward the agreed upon goal of just and comprehensive peace.

His excellency the president voiced Syria's appreciation for the efforts the U.S. sponsor is making in this regard.

Christopher Comments, Departs

JN0612164794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Damascus at 1700 today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and his staff.

In an exclusive statement to a correspondent of the Syrian News Agency, SANA, Christopher said: Once again, we held serious talks, and we are working persistently to clarify all aspects. He added that the two sides are serious about the peace process. Christopher also said: Today's meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad lasted four and a half hours. I felt he was serious in seeking peace. I do not want to elaborate because it is a process in which we are working seriously and because the United States is one of two sponsors of the peace process and is making good efforts to narrow the gap of differences between the two sides.

Al-Mu'allim on Peace With Israel, U.S. Role

TA0712090494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 94 p A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We are losing momentum and public support everywhere, even in Israel. The passing of time allows negative elements to interfere with our process. Let us make good use of the time we have left, which is measured in months and not years, to achieve an agreement." These remarks were made by Walid al-Mu'allim, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, in an interview with American journalist Jeff Aronson [name as transliterated]. The interview will be published in the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ.

According to al-Mu'allim, who conducts the negotiating track together with his counterpart, Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, the United States will remain supportive of the peace process, which is viewed as preferable to instability in the Middle East. His remarks indicate that Syria expects to receive economic aid from the United States within the framework of peace with Israel. "I believe the American role is affected by numerous factors. The first and most important is the Israeli course in the process. The Israeli stand is divided. Some Israelis are in favor of peace in return for peace, while the Labor coalition is in favor of a comprehensive arrangement. There are two predominant trends in that coalition. One of them speaks of the need to implement the agreement with Jordan and to complete the Oslo process, in view of which the Syrian track should be put on hold. This is the view embraced by Peres, who says that Syria's regional role is not the one anticipated in the wake of the Casablanca conference. It is vital to achieve an agreement with Syria, but only at the end, when Israel will be able to force an arrangement. This approach has recently gained strength.

"The other approach is represented by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] generals, who believe that despite Syria's historic role, it is not a vital element in the region, although the agreement with the Palestinians will not last without Syria. Without Syria, Jordan will avoid making progress, and everything achieved with the Gulf and North African countries will be insecure without Syria.

"Rabin listens to both sides. He alone knows what his views are. He may possiblely share some views with (Ehud) Baraq. This is the primary factor affecting the U.S. stand.

"The second factor is the most recent U.S. elections. In my opinion, we are exaggerating Jesse Helms' importance. His line is clear: He is against everyone. The local media depicted him as an anti-peace-process ogre, but Helms is neither the Congress, nor the Senate, nor the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, nor U.S. foreign policy. When we reach a genuine agreement, everyone will be swept by the wave. I cannot even conceive of the possibility that there is a majority against peace in the United States.

"Regarding the deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan: We never requested it. We expect UN observers to be stationed, we will reach an agreement with Israel on their number and the weapons they are to carry, and we will choose countries friendly to both sides. I cannot say our relations with the United States are normal. I have reservations on this point. We should act to normalize the relations with the United States before we can examine the Israeli request (for the deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan.)

"As for aid, that is the key to a comprehensive arrangement. I can pose the following question to Jesse Helms: What is less expensive—a tense or a stable area? What will be more costly in this area, which is vital to the U.S. interests? Reason says that a secure and stable area will be less expensive to the American taxpayers, if they work

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

together with our countries in strengthening the arrangement from the financial point of view.

"While Rabin is forced to defend the agreement here, we present the other side of the problem. We are forced to defend it in the Arab world, to sell it in order to expand it beyond the Golan Heights. Each side has a role of its own, because, after all, both sides will have to take pride in the agreement and promote it. We are not seeking a phased, fragmented agreement (an allusion to the Oslo agreement). We are seeking a final, comprehensive agreement. Many countries have been deferring their relations (with Israel) until an agreement with Syria and Lebanon is achieved. Today every party can decide on its stand. Nothing is guaranteed, but I am positive that the peace wave will sweep everyone.

"The third factor is the American position. I am convinced that any administration, Democratic or Republican, is aware of its interest in a settlement. It is aware of the strategic interests of Israel and its friends (in the Arab world). The common denominator is the comprehensive settlement, but the United States' role still does not go beyond that of intermediary. They have given up the position of full partner. They believe that Syria and Israel are still not making progress and that each side is making small and thought-out steps in accordance with its domestic situation. They feel that the peace process has to be dealt with, but not enough to do anything to move it forward. I feel that they do not lean toward a real process.

"After Rabin's visit I feel that the United States has merely been trying to keep the track alive. The Americans got very little from Rabin. If the declarations by Clinton and American officials following the Clinton-Al-Asad meeting were studied and compared to the Rabin-Clinton meeting we would immediately discover that the Syrians gave more. (Following the meeting with al-Asad) there was talk about significant progress. Compare that to the talk in the White House and Dennis Ross' remarks (following the meeting with Rabin).

"We are waiting for Rabin to decide what he wants: Whether he wants to complete the Palestinian and Jordanian track or make progress with Syria? The Americans are not sure. They also expect their pressure on their friends in the Gulf and in North America to bring about normalization (with Israel) without the Syrian track.

"We will not be able to wait a long time for an endless process when we see how our position is being weakened daily. We see it as our duty to present our position. We will be able to wait a little longer, but not too long. Definitely not until the Amman (business) conference in June. If Rabin is talking about eight to nine months before we know where the negotiations are going, the same is true for al-Asad.

"I must say that President Clinton is a leader who can deal with the matter. He has a keen grip of the details. His personality and talent can play an important role in bridging the gap between Syria and Israel. The (congressional) elections were not focused on foreign policy, and the peace process did not influence the positions (of the voters). The elections dealt with the United States' domestic problems. I still see Clinton's role as vital. His ability to play a role has not been harmed by the elections. On the contrary, it is easier for him now to deal with foreign issues than domestic problems.

"In reference to the state of the talks, sometimes the negotiations solve small problems. Policymakers solve the major issues, which can be solved via the American role. On the issue of agenda, Israel still insists on five years, and Syria insists on one year. On the subject of the foundations of normalization, we are ready for anything following the full withdrawal. The third basis is the defense arrangements. Both sides are worn out, and the question now is what the Americans will do. Clinton is trying to bridge the gaps on the first two issues.

"Syria said it is prepared, following the Christopher visit, to resume the formal talks, and as is usually the case with such delegations, there are all sorts of experts. Dennis Ross said that he does not support the resumption of the talks if it is not clear that they will be fruitful. We are not prepared to dispatch military experts to secret talks. On that, the Americans support the Israeli position, and they have studied Israel's problems. Rabin wants to hold low-profile talks, and that is a problem for Christopher. Here we see the honest broker take a stand on raising the level of the talks. If they want to raise it to ministerial level, will they really be prepared to dispatch Peres? They are only griping.

Need for Israeli Declaration on Withdrawal Seen

JN0612161094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: It has been observed over the past three years of the age of the peace process that some parties, such as Syria and Lebanon, are working seriously and honestly to bring about a just peace, while Israel is simply talking and talking about peace. It has also been observed that this Israeli talk about peace is harming, obstructing, freezing, and even derailing the peace process instead of pushing it forward. Otherwise, how can we explain Israel's questions about the nature of peace, which was clarified by the U.S. initiative as land for peace and by Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, calling for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 border lines?

Moreover, it can be said that certain phrases of the U.S. initiative should have put an end to Israel's attempts to procrastinate and exploit the absence of the famous definite article from Resolution No. 242. These phrases maintain that modern weapons have abolished the security theory that is based on geographical expansion and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

have also refuted Israel's allegations that Resolution 242 stipulates withdrawal from occupied territories rather than all the occupied territories. President Hafiz al-Asad clarified that peace was Syria's strategic option and that such a peace means total Israeli withdrawal in return for total peace. Despite this, Israeli officials are still slyly questioning the nature of peace that Syria is seeking, and are declaring that they are unable to pay the price, which is withdrawal from the Golan, as if they were taking the Golan from their own pockets or as if the Syrian Arab Golan had not been Arab land since the dawn of history.

In addition to its attempts to hinder the peace process, Israel alleges that Syria has obstructed peace for 15 years. On the contrary, it is Israel that has been hindering peace not only since the Madrid conference three years ago but also since Security Council Resolution 242 was issued 27 years ago. The resolution calls for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it has occupied by war and force. However, the situation is taking shape as follows: The whole world has admitted that Syria is demanding just and honorable peace, that Syria has paved the way for the peace process and has repeatedly saved it from collapse, that Syria is the key to peace, that there will be no peace without Syria, and that Syria has utilized its status in the peace process to achieve peace. The U.S. Administration, the European community, and the entire world have acknowledged this fact. Peace as a strategic option does not mean that Syria will accept any kind of peace. Nor will it accept the demands Israel is introducing into the peace process to hamper it—demands that virtually give Israel the first and last word in any Arab affair.

Nobody knows what makes Israel believe that lofty Arab Syria, which was entrusted by the Arab people with the task of preserving their pan-Arab principles, will accept these Israeli demands or ambitions. In order to avoid any obscurity, misunderstanding, or misinterpretation, President Hafiz al-Asad has made a decisive announcement, as he usually does at decisive moments, that Syria prefers the current situation to the peace that Israel wants. These are the facts of the current situation of the peace process on the eve of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the region to activate the peace process.

There is no doubt that such facts make it necessary to declare Israel as the party responsible for hampering the peace process in order to save the available peace opportunity; meet the requirements of peace, namely, a clear-cut acceptance of withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories to the 4 June 1994 border lines; and implement that declaration as soon as possible without any delay. Any Israeli move to make and implement such a declaration will constitute a solid ground for just and comprehensive peace that will achieve everybody's interest and dignity and guarantee security and peace in the region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Meets With UN Assistance Coordinator

LD0612181994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani chairman of the High Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning in his office Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, coordinator of UN assistance to Afghanistan.

The presidency's press office reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that at this meeting Mr. Mousouris presented a report on the UN endeavors and activities concerning the dispatch of foodstuffs to Afghanistan [words indistinct]. The UN has asked the (?member) states to raise $106 million for assisting Afghanistan.

Mr. Mousouris passed on information to our president regarding the work and activities carried out by the UN in this respect.

The esteemed president expressed thanks for UN efforts to dispatch humanitarian assistance to the people of Kabul. He pointed out that Kabuls' people's (?need of such) assistance is continuously growing especially under the harsh winter conditions. We are hoping that the UN pays attention to this fact and further increases its humanitarian assistance. Mr. Mousouris gave assurance to pass on and to attract the attention of UN authorities to this issue.

Bangladesh

Opposition Threatens To Resign 28 Dec

BK0612162894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The entire opposition in Bangladesh today announced that they would resign en masse in Parliament on the 28th of this month if their demand for a caretaker government is not accepted by the 27th. Giving the ultimatum at a rally in Dhaka, the chief of Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, also announced a month-long agitation program beginning with a 48-hour nation-wide strike from tomorrow.

At a separate rally of the ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], the prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, reiterated her refusal to accede to what she called unconstitutional demands of the opposition.

Group of 2,323 Rohingya Refugees Returns to Burma

BK0212133194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another batch of 2,323 Rohingya refugees returned to their homes in Burma over the past two days. Our Chittagong correspondent reports that over 116,300 Rohingya refugees have been repatriated so far.

Meanwhile, another round of talks between representatives of the Burmese Immigration Department and the UNHCR office in Cox's Bazar was held yesterday at the Maungdaw Border Headquarters to discuss measures related to improving the system of repatriation.

India

Spy Probe Likely To Delay PSLV Project

BK0612131994 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 6 Dec 94 p 8

[Article by R. Ramachandran in the "News Analysis" column: Probe Into ISRO Spying Case Likely To Delay PSLV Project"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The highly sensitive rocket espionage case, involving two senior scientists of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), two Maldivian women and two Bangalore based business men so far, appears to be a classic spy story of a sex-money honey trap.

Unlike the two well known cases a couple of years ago of scientists involved in violations of the Indian Official Secrets Act, where the charges could not be proved, the ISRO case could well be a true one. For, in this drama there seem to be many actors as against individuals in the earlier instances, Also, according to reliable sources there is evidence here of sensitive information and documents having gone out.

Although the extent of damage remains to be assessed, ISRO scientists believe that the key material that has been passed on through the Maldivian route pertains to the manufacturing drawings of the liquid launch Vehicle (PSLV). The PSLV uses liquid engines for its second (PS-2) and fourth (PS-4) stages, roping in Dr Sasikumaran, deputy director in charge of the manufacturing facilities at the LPSC, into the spy net seems to have facilitated the transfer of manufacturing and fabrication details of the engines [as received].

While PS-2 is the indigenised the Vikas engine based on the French design Viking, PS-4 has been designed and developed completely indigenously. Mr Nambi Narayanan, one of the prime accused in the case and at present under arrest, was a key member in the Viking indigenisation programme and designing of the PS-4. He also led the team of ISRO engineers to the French firm SEP, back in the 1970's to collaborate in the development of Viking itself in return for which ISRO got the knowhow, design and manufacturing details of the liquid engine practically free of cost.

Mr Nambi Narayanan is deputy director at the LPSC and in charge of the development of the indigenous

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

cryogenic engine and stage. He was one of the members of the Indian team in the technology-transfer negotiations with the Russian space agency Glavkosmos as well. Glavkosmos' Bangalore-based Indian representative, Mr Chandrasekharan, is also an accused in the recent scandal. The arrest of Mr Chandrasekharan could mean that design drawings of the cryo-engine could also have leaked out.

Two questions arise: (a) What will be the impact of this espionage work on ISRO's programme itself?; (b), Which could be the external agency interested in these?

The events have certainly shaken the ISRO scientists and currently the morale is low, indeed, the confidence infusing circular that Dr K Kasturirangan, ISRO chairman, has recently sent around to all ISRO centres is indicative of that. He clearly has a difficult job at hand of ensuring that ISRO's work does not get affected and scientists get on with the future PSLV launches and the development of the cryo-engine for Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Mr Nambi Narayanan may be important to the programmes but he is not indispensable, feel insiders. The ISRO culture of work ensures that. In that sense, the work itself may not get affected seriously. But what could delay and affect the programmes is the slow erosion of informality of scientific dialogue that is characteristic of ISRO.

In days to come, there is bound in be a greater degree of secrecy around every scientist's area of work, requiring clearances and extended bureaucracy even for internal exchange of views.

More importantly, if the reports that over 20 ISRO scientists are under surveillance is true, prolonged interrogations that would follow can disrupt the work badly and could even push the PSLV programme behind schedule by more than a year. For most scientists of the ISRO, this is the most worrisome aspect of the entire spying incident. It is up to the investigating agencies and Dr Kasturirangan to ensure that vague leads are not pursued endlessly and the investigations are concluded quickly.

Coming to the second question, reports suspect the involvement of Pakistani secret agency, ISI [Inter Services Intelligence]. Considering that it is the manufacturing drawings that have gone out, Pakistan's involvement seems plausible. No other country would be interested in these designs save, perhaps, Brazil to whom France refused to transfer Viking liquid engine technology on account of embargoes related to the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime].

But it is unimaginable that Brazil—whose civilian space programme is no doubt under stress—would lay such a spy network extending to Maldives of all places. It is more likely that Pakistan would have established links in Maldives.

Just as Pakistan built its uranium enrichment plant from the smuggled designs of centrifuges from European enrichment plants, this too can give Pakistan a great technological push to Pakistan's space programme. However, Pakistani civilian space or missile programme is not greatly advanced to make use of the drawings immediately.

But Pakistan could approach China for fabrication of components based on these drawings and assemble them. By doing this, China will also not violate the MTCR, because the basic designs have not been provided by China.

One must, however, remember that even though India had these drawings, it took ISRO over 15 years to perfect the Vikas engine. So what is crucial is whether engine test and evaluation data have also gone out along with the basic drawings. If Pakistan has really masterminded this, and has also been able to secure test and evaluation data, it may be able to build a Viking type liquid engine in three to five years with Chinese help.

It may be pointed out here that Pakistan has one of the best launch sites for polar launches at Son Maini on the Makran coast. The Maldivian connection, scientists say, could also be used as a quid pro quo for setting up a downrange tracking station like the one India has in Mauritius, or, Pakistan could even sell these drawings to Brazil for a price.

Its direct impact on Pakistani missile programme is likely to be minimal, because the LPSC is not involved in any way with any of the missile or other defence projects. The Isro unit which would be dealing directly with missile technologies is the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC), also in Trivandrum, which designs guidance systems, gyros etc. What is, however, possible is that the infiltrators, failing to get a direct foothold in the VSSC, may have tried to exploit the vulnerabilities of Mr Nambi Narayanan and Mr Sasikumaran of the nearby centre LPSC and thus gain access to VSSC and sensitive information there.

Given the fact, these events might set the clock back on the PSLV, and the US had wanted to prevent India from acquiring the cryo-engine technology, it may be tempting to associate the US intelligence network behind this deed. The fact that the scandal has surfaced just after India's PSLV success may even add credence to that view. However, that seems to be a little far-fetched because it is easier for the US to get all the information on the cryo-engine directly form the Russians and for disrupting the work, it need not go through this complicated Maldivian route. All it would have to do is to offer lucrative jobs to key personnel at the LPSC and the VSSC.

The fallout of the incident is the clear evidence of laxity of security in ISRO. What the government must do is evolve a code of research and conduct for scientists involved in strategic areas—like electronics, space,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

defence and atomic energy—without hampering the necessary academic freedom but at the same time ensuring that security interests are not compromised. The scientists must also be made to feel free to confide in their higher-ups if they unwittingly fall into a trap or err so that they are not made victims of a witchhunt.

Magazine Wraps Up Espionage Case

BK0612125094 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Dec 94 pp 199-205

[Report by M.G. Radhakrishna in Trivandrum]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Female spies, a Russian connection, sexual entrapment, secret information on rocket engines and missile programmes being sold at a price, and a spate of arrests. Pure James Bond. But it was precisely this scenario—in real life—that has left a spy scandal, uncovered in Trivandrum last fortnight, shrouded in mystery, and raising a host of intriguing theories.

The first hint of an espionage scandal surfaced following the arrest of four people: a brilliant senior space scientist employed in a sensitive area of research at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the local representative of the Russian space company. Glavkosmos, as well as two women from the Maldives.

The busting of the espionage ring bears a touch of macabre irony. On the surface, the spy network was stealing secrets about India's space programme for possible use by any number of suspected countries, which could include Russia, China, America or even Pakistan. That is as much a back-handed tribute to Indian space scientists as it is a serious breach of security at one of the country's top scientific research installations. But it is also possible, given the facts and circumstances, that Indian intelligence was also doing some espionage of its own.

The cast of characters involved is indicative of just how sensitive and serious the consequences could be. The scientist arrested last fortnight is D. Sasikumaran, 55, deputy director of the cryogenic engine project at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), in Valiyamala near Trivandrum. He is considered outstanding in his field, an expert at fabrication and materials of rocket engines. He was third in terms of seniority at the centre.

He was arrested in Ahmedabad, where he had been transferred on November 7, after his affair with Mariam Rasheeda, a 31-year-old Maldivian, first came to the notice of the Indian intelligence. Rasheeda had earlier been arrested by the Trivandrum police and lurid details of their relationship had been splashed all over Kerala.

Rasheeda provided the police with the first hint that India's space programme was the target of foreign spies. She had been arrested on October 20 for a relatively routine offence—that of overstaying her visa. While being interrogated, Rasheeda mentioned that Sasikumaran was a friend who would vouch for her. Considering the sensitive nature of the scientist's job, the Kerala police called in the Central Bureau of Intelligence and the Research and Analysis Wing. Detectives from the Central agencies arrived from New Delhi and joined in the interrogation.

The intelligence personal immediately smelt a rat. While investigating her background, the police recovered telephone records from the hotel where Rasheeda had stayed. A number of calls had been made to Sasikumaran's home and office.

Confronted with the evidence of Rasheeda's close links with him, Sasikumaran wrote to the director of LPSC, admitting that he knew Rasheeda, but that it was only a friendship. But by then, Rasheeda had informed the police that the two had met many times. Rasheeda's passport showed she had visited India frequently, shuttling between Trivandrum and Bangalore. Her daughter studies in a Bangalore school.

This only added to the suspicion. Bangalore happens to be the city which houses ISRO's headquarters. And it is from here that the police picked up Rasheeda's reported controller, a 50-year-old Maldivian woman named Fauzia Hussein, as she was trying to leave the country.

Hussein used to stay in Trivandrum with Rasheeda earlier. The police suspect Rasheeda and Hussein of using Sasikumaran to obtain details of the cryogenic engine project and then selling them to interested buyers abroad.

The two women reportedly enjoy considerable clout in Trivandrum. Including, significantly, influence with two inspector generals in the state police, Raman Srivastava and P.R. Chandran. Both have been questioned because Rasheeda claimed to know them.

While Srivastava has denied he knew Rasheeda, Chandran says he got to know her through Sasikumaran, who had been his classmate in Trivandrum Engineering College in the early 1960s. Chandran had recommended an extension of Rasheeda's visa and got her daughter admitted to the Bangalore school. He says he did so because Sasikumaran requested him to.

With the network expanding beyond what was originally suspected, the case could be one of the most serious security breaches in Indian intelligence history. The police say they expect to book more ISRO scientists for having links with the Maldivian women, and abetting spying. In fact, some scientists are reported to have put in their resignations. However, ISRO authorities have kept the resignations pending till investigations are complete.

Meanwhile, the key figure could be the fourth person arrested, K. Chandrasekharan. About 45 years old, Chandrasekharan is the main agent for Salut Design Bureau, the Indian subsidiary of Glavkosmos. He is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

well-known in the Indian space establishment and particularly at ISRO's Valiyamala centre. He is reported to have brokered many deals between India and Russia for space-related equipment and technology. He is also the person who introduced Sasikumaran to Rasheeda. Chandrasekharan is a businessman who owns a firm, Vijay Industrial Consultants, in Bangalore, and is well known in the city's social circuit.

It is Chandrasekharan's involvement that has exposed the manner in which the network operated. ISRO has been buying Russian space equipment and technology worth hundreds of crores of rupees every year. The business is large enough to spawn a litter of middlemen who broker deals, ensure deliveries and payments. In return for favours, these brokers often pass on money and even provide women. There are many scientists who have assets disproportionate to their incomes. Investigators are said to have found evidence of this in Sasikumaran's case also. Intelligence sources claim that he was offered Rs 15 lakh to provide top secret information on ISRO's research and development programme.

The cryogenic engine offered considerable scope as a target for foreign espionage. According to the original contract signed in 1991, India was supposed to pay Glavkosmos Rs 400 crore for the cryogenic engines and related technology. Two years ago, the US forced Glavkosmos, with threats of trade sanctions, to retract its promise to provide ISRO with technology for cryogenic rocket engines on the grounds that it would help India's ballistic missile programme.

However, by the time the US conveyed the threat, ISRO was already sitting on a major part of the technology. And it now appears possible that Glavkosmos was acting as the conduit for transferring information secretly to India. Cryogenic technology will power the Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), the next generation of space technology that India is working at, which will allow positioning of satellites closer to earth. Eventually this will be used in the missile programme, particularly the 2,500 km-range Agni, which would also be capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

However, as far as India's security is concerned, the breach could be serious. In fact, greater significance is being given to Sasikumaran's reported access to the Indian Navy's submarine communication station, INS Kattabomman. Naval research in the country has recently yielded a rich harvest in the form of a very low frequency communication system. It is ideally suited for communicating with submarines as it is difficult to detect. There was fears that Sasikumaran had passed on details of the new system.

Intelligence agencies, however, are at a loss to pinpoint any one country as being involved. Pakistan does not have a space programme, though it would certainly be interested in what progress India has made and the missile applications involved. China and the US already have cryogenic technology. However, it is in the interest of all three countries to know the progress made by India in its space and missile programme. China has already expressed its concerns about Agni. Pakistan could also use the information to lobby for Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) sanctions against India. And, the US could use it as proof of India's missile proliferation activities and push even harder on MTCR.

As of now, intelligence agencies are not saying anything officially. "The interrogations are still in progress with a view to establishing if other scientists were involved in the scandal," says a police official involved in the case. While the involvement of the two men is self-explanatory, it appears that the two women were being used as bait to lure targets into sexually compromising situation. Intelligence agencies call it the Honey Trap and it is the oldest trick in the espionage book. Rasheeda is employed as a lower rung clerk in the Maldivian National Security Service.

The special squad earlier had suspected that the two women were members of an organisation involved in efforts to topple the Maldivian Government of President Abdul Gayoom. After interrogation. Indian intelligence is veering around to the view that they could have been working for Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence (ISI). Some report state that Hussein was recruited for the ISI by an executive working in the Maldivian branch of Habib Bank. Still, investigators are tight-lipped about any Pakistan connection.

Irrespective of theories, however, the case has focussed attention on lax security at Indian scientific installations and incompetent verification of scientists who are employed there. There is no overall security policy for these institutions or even a standardised drill for checking those coming into the premises and leaving it. Employees, particularly, are never checked when taking out work-related papers. Just before the Sasikumaran-Rasheeda case blew up a yet-to-be identified woman and a Bangladeshi were apprehended in the Valiyamala centre premises.

Also vetting of employees is not a regular activity. Background checking is conducted once when a scientist is being put on the rolls. ISRO's cryogenic engine; target for spies. After that it is assumed that he is "clean" and does not need any further vetting. Usually, however, the person may start out straight and then go awry, as in Sasikumaran's case. The absence of annual verification of social circles, standard of living and the psychological state of those working in top-secret laboratories across the country are an invitation to disaster.

These incidents mark a shift in the espionage activity being conducted within India. Earlier, spying was essentially military-related, but now foreign intelligence agencies have also started snooping around scientific and research institutions, particularly those related to space technology. It is also an indication of the coming of age of India's space programme now a host of countries are clearly interested in obtaining inside information on the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

state of research and technology in India's space and missile programme. Whatever the final dimensions of the spy scandal may turn out to be, the positive side is that it will force the Government to tighten up the lax security at its space and missile establishments.

Pakistanis Reportedly Fire Rockets Across Border

BK0712110794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1030 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistani troops fired rockets in the Khor area of Jammu District this morning. No loss of life or damage, however, was caused. Two rockets exploded in a field, while the other two were lying unexploded nearby.

Our Jammu correspondent reports that this is the second incident of rocket firing in Khor Sector. Rocket firing is frequent in Punch Sector. About 320 rockets have been fired by Pakistani troops, claiming over dozen human lives and injuring many more. People in border areas have held several protest demonstrations against the firing.

Editorial: U.S. Election Impact on Policy

BK0612150894 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 6 Dec 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Straws in the Wind?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The sweeping Republican victory in the November mid-term elections to the Congress and Senate has ousted many Democrats from key posts. As a result, Representative Benjamin Gilman, a moderate Republican, has been named Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in the new Congress that convenes in January. This appointment is important as it provides a crucial input into the making of America's foreign policy. Though it isn't exactly the most important post so far as formulating American foreign policy is concerned, it is the first of a trend that will have ramifications best felt outside America. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, for example, can vet ambassadorial appointments, has an overwhelming say in ratification of treaties America signs with governments or other countries, and, among other things, has an overriding say in the overseas aid budget. All these are matters that directly impinge on countries on which these decisions have a bearing, including, of course, India.

It is thus a worthwhile exercise to ask what exactly does the Republican control bode for India. Normally, the predilections, policy-wise, of the person who holds that key post, are clear enough long before a new incumbent actually takes up the assignment. For example Mr Jesse Helms, the man famous for his recent remark that President Clinton "better have a bodyguard" if he were to visit military installations in Helms' home state, North Carolina, is, as is abundantly clear, not exactly kindly disposed to President Clinton. His name has been bandied about for the chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is known for his aggressive hawkish attitude. He recently suggested that the passage of the GATT bill be delayed. Such a measure would have virtually killed the multilateral trade agreement. More importantly, so far as India is concerned, he is a hawk on Kashmir. As a legislator he will certainly be in a position to have laws passed that New Delhi may find hard to stomach.

Similarly, though reports emanating from Washington suggest that Representative Benjamin Gilman's appointment may be good news for India, the reality may not exactly match the expectations. His recent pronouncements have been, to put it mildly, hawkish. He has said, quite categorically, that if India wanted better relations with the US it must "take some step forward improving its internal situation". There is also the possibility that Senator Dan Burton may take over the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee. If he has had a soft corner for India, he has kept it is premature to speculate, in sum, the Republican takeover may not be such a good thing for India after all. Relations with the US has always been a tricky thing; it is bound to get trickier. The positive momentum that the Prime Minister, Mr PV Narasimha Rao's visit generated. may well begin to look like a thing of the past, if Mr Clinton, willy-nilly, is boxed in by Republican legislators as far as India is concerned, on the question of non-proliferation and human rights.

Iran

Paper Views U.S. Style of Democracy

95LA0022D Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 20 Sep 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] After a few weeks of threats and terror against the small country of Haiti, the American troops occupied that country yesterday afternoon. This comprehensive attack took place despite the negotiations and agreements reached two nights ago in Port-au-Prince between a high level Washington delegation, which consisted of former President Jimmy Carter; Sam Nunn, chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. Senate; Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Haitian officials and military commanders, headed by Cedras. As has been the case under the new world order scenarios, this aggression by the United States took place by involving units of soldiers from 23 other countries so that it would look like an international operation. In reality, the participation of these units did not go beyond their just being present. Obviously, planning and execution of the military operation were under the control of the White House.

Political observes in the United States believe that Clinton's insistence on attacking Haiti is the result of his efforts to emerge from a growing political crisis that is facing him and his high level associates. This view has received wide coverage in Congress and the media in the United States.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

What is Clinton's point? Like his predecessors, Clinton is clinging to the claim of "defense of democracy" and American mission for the protection of "democratic values." It seems that the White House cannot find a more ridiculous excuse for aggression in small countries.

Clinton claims that Aristide was elected by the Haitian people but was removed by the military. Therefore, the American military must occupy Haiti and reinstate Aristide.

Other than the fact that developments in other countries should not concern the United States, there are two unanswered questions on this issue:

1. In Algeria, did the military not cancel the results of the election of the Islamic Salvation Front by the people? Which Western government is concerned about this fact? Did the White House not welcome this move against democracy?

2. Which law gives Clinton the power to invade another independent country for the protection of "superior values," when in recent months the news of his moral corruption has been broadcast from U.S. televisions and in the press, and both he and his wife, as well as a few of his high level associates, are under investigation in the "Whitewater" case for financial corruption?

French Imprison Citizen for Life in Bakhtiar Murder

NC0612211294 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Dec 6 (AFP)—A French court Tuesday [6 December] convicted an Iranian of murdering former Iranian prime minister Shahpur Bakhtiar and sentenced him to life in prison after a trial in which the Tehran government was in the dock. An alleged accomplice was sentenced to 10 years, but a third defendant was acquitted.

The verdicts came after a more than month-long trial at which prosecutors argued that the Iranian government was behind the strangling deaths of Bakhtiar and an aide at Bakhtiar's home outside Paris on August 6, 1991.

Iran has denied the allegations.

The life sentence was handed down for the man alleged to have actually done the killing, 35-year-old Ali Vakili Rad. One of the alleged accomplices, Massoud Hendi, 47, drew the 10-year sentence. Zeynal Abedine Sarhadi, 28, was acquitted.

The seven judges deliberated for more than four hours.

Prosecutor Jacques Mouton last week called for life imprisonment for the alleged murderer and 15-year sentences for the other two, saying the crime was organised from "within the heart of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He told the court that the murder had to be set in the context of "history written in letters of blood since the revolution in February 1979 in Iran."

The trial was held under stringent security amid fears of terrorist reprisals similar to a wave of Iranian-linked attacks in Paris in 1986, in which 13 people were killed.

Bakhtiar was the last prime minister of Iran under the regime of the shah, Reza Pahlavi.

Lebanese Prime Minister's Resignation Viewed

NC0312154394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has resigned. Even though al-Hariri announced this decision before the parliament and insisted that he was serious, as long as the resignation is not presented in writing to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, it cannot be considered definite. This is especially since the Lebanese prime minister intends to visit Syria soon for talks with officials there.

Political analysts believe that even before his resignation al-Hariri's Cabinet had collapsed. It is therefore unlikely that this Cabinet can resume its functions on its previous program and in its former form.

In 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] Rafiq al-Hariri took over as an unusual individual who was embarking on an unusual task. This choice came shortly after the al-Ta'if Accord and the ousting of the rebel general Michel 'Oun on the basis of an arcane accord among the Lebanese political factions and regional and international players. Rafiq al-Hariri, who is an international billionaire with dual Lebanese and Saudi nationality, was considered a balancing factor in this selection. In view of his financial and political clout, he was to have forged ahead with Lebanon's reconstruction program to eliminate all signs of the ravages of war.

Now, three years after his selection, there is no tangible change in the situation in Lebanon and there is no evidence of the implementation of the program announced earlier. It is perhaps for this reason that the continuation of the current Cabinet in office seems difficult.

When he assumed power al-Hariri was to pursue certain objectives as the main program of the government, which included: The reorganization of the government departments that had been decimated in the civil war; economic planning and reconstruction of the economic infrastructure that had been totally destroyed by the war; efforts for reducing the distance between the opulent class and the others in Lebanese society by absorbing foreign investment and generating employment; and a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

campaign against administrative and financial corruption in government offices that had proliferated in the course of the civil war due to the intervention of the political groups.

An appraisal of the al-Hariri government's performance against these objectives indicates that this cabinet has been unsuccessful to a great extent in carrying out its task.

The resigned prime minister's declaration of war against the country's mass media last year and the surfacing of a kind of rift between the government and private institutions, both of which were under al-Hariri's management, are among the other factors that paved the way for the people's dissatisfaction with this government.

British Envoy Criticized for Interfering in Affairs

NC0312194794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Station political commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking in an economic seminar recently held in al-Dammam, Saudi Arabia, the British ambassador stated that his country still believes that Iraq and Iran are major sources of danger to Saudi Arabia and that it is being threatened by its neighbors and needs to defend itself.

This is not the first time the British ambassador has given himself the right to speak about such issues that neither concern him nor his government and to behave with such impudence. He has uttered the same falsehoods in the past. The British ambassador in Riyadh lacks all diplomatic manners and perception because he considers the Islamic Republic of Iran to be a threat to the region while for the past 25 years Iran has always sought to foil the schemes of division and discord concocted by the unabashed aggressive powers, such as Britain and the United States. Not a single country in the region has been spared the aggressive policy and the enmity of these powers and their attempts to undermine the security and stability of the region.

In this regard, if the others are unaware of the developments in the Persian Gulf, at least the British ambassadors and their government should know the dirty role played by British officials to create sedition in this region. The fact is that the Persian Gulf region has always been calm except when it is subject to a blatant intervention by the British, the Americans, and their allies. It has lacked law and order and become chaotic and unstable as a result of the military and political intervention of these powers and the arrival of the destructive Western culture and media.

Thus, the ambassador of a country that is among the primary causes for political instability in the Persian Gulf region has no right to make a judgment on political issues in this region. The remarks of the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia are nothing but a flagrant intervention in Iran's domestic affairs. It is beneficial for Ambassador David Gore-Booth to know that the public in Iran is furious with the British and the Americans, which is the result of their malicious, hostile, and malignant record in their relations with the Iranian people.

Commentary Views 'Hostages' in Lebanon

NC0512145094 Tehran SALAM in Persian 27 Nov 94 p 12

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "The Iranian Hostages Are Incarcerated in Lebanon—The Next Step Should Be Taken"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to the second session of the tribunal for reviewing charges against Samir Ja'ja', the commander of the Phalangist forces who was involved in taking four Iranian diplomats and an employee of the Iranian embassy in Lebanon hostage, the Iranian ambassador in Beirut announced last week that the Iranian hostages are alive, and Tehran believes that they have not been murdered.

There is no doubt that these remarks by our ambassador in Beirut—which were made after his meeting with the Lebanese foreign minister—merit appreciation as a positive effort in breaking the prolonged silence on the part of the Lebanese officials regarding Ja'ja's involvement in, and reactivation of, the abduction of the aforementioned Iranians. These remarks can be considered the first step in reviewing the dossier of the Iranian hostages.

On the other hand, as the news circles and government of Lebanon have announced, the murder of Dani Sham'un, the leader of the Liberal Party of that country, and the explosion in the Maronite church in Beirut are important subjects heading the list of charges in Ja'ja's dossier. So far, there has been no news from Lebanese officials or our foreign ministry whether the charges of hostage-taking have been raised during the course of his trial.

Ja'ja' claims that these hostages were murdered during the term of the previous commander, Elie Hubayqah, and he does not have any information about the exact details on how they were killed or how many were killed. These claims by Ja'ja' are unacceptable as there is no doubt that Ja'ja' was the most influential decisionmaker of the Phalangist paramilitary forces during the period in 1361 [year beginning 21 March 1982] when the Iranian hostages were abducted. In addition, these Iranians were taken hostage at a time when Ja'ja' and Hubeyqah were acting as members of one group. Thus, with such a position and status, it is difficult to accept his claims of not having any knowledge of the fate of the Iranian hostages.

Now the Foreign Ministry should take the next step and increase its contacts with Lebanon's executive and judicial authorities and demand a serious review of the dossier of the Iranian hostages in the course of Ja'ja's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

trial. Even if we suppose that Ja'ja' considers himself absolved of these charges—facts and evidence clearly indicate otherwise—there is a possibility that clear documentary evidence will be presented in the course of the trials of the dozens of persons under his command, including Fu'ad Malik, the main figure behind the terrorist operations of the Lebanese forces awaiting trial. This would at least put an end to the years of waiting by the families of the Iranians taken hostage.

Majlis Calls For Impeachment of Mines Minister

LD0412164694 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—In a letter to the Majlis speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, 19 Majlis deputies here Sunday [4 December] called for impeachment of mines and metals minister, Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji.

In the letter read at the open session of the Majlis, the deputies questioned him on failure of Mobarakeh Steel Complex to reach production capacity, selling products of Isfahan Steel Plant to incompetent companies, purchase of domestically manufactured products from abroad and allocation of the ministry's credits to sports federations.

The letter also called on Mahluji to explain about concluding contracts for selling construction materials produced by Ahwaz Steel Complex at very low prices, and selling the foreign exchange quota of the national Iranian Steel Complex.

The deputies posed 24 questions and demand Mahluji to answer them.

'Plethora' of Problems With Changing Constitution

NC0612073794 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 24 Nov 94 p 10

[Commentary by Jamal Rahnama'i: "Regarding a 'Supposition'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There have been various reactions to a recent interview with [Vice President] Ata'ollah Mohajerani in a morning daily. Mohajerani said his words were a personal hypothesis. But it is worth mulling over.

Of Mohajerani's hypothesis on amending the Constitution to extend President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's term in office, you could say that with nearly three more years of the current government's tenure remaining, such a change could generate a plethora of problems, some of which are listed below:

1. History has proven that the effects of political decisions are felt with the passage of time; only years after a decision is adopted or implemented is its correctness or incorrectness shown. Once the decision has become entrenched in society its repercussions are also inevitable and cannot be warded off. Such are the developments in culture and communications that it takes less time for the consequences of such decisions to surface. Some decisions have undermined the prestige of whoever implements them, even though this was not what was intended. [passage omitted]

But today you need not wait so long to see the consequences of political decisions. In our own country we can mention the elimination of the position of the prime minister and its replacement with the presidential system at the beginning of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's first tenure of office. While at the outset this system served to shorten bureaucratic paths in executive affairs, ultimately, it was also instrumental in reducing the president's power as a symbol of national unity. This is because the people attribute the favorable or adverse outcome of the implementation of policies to the president, not a prime minister. This undermines the political import of this position.

Such issues must be given serious and deep thought when similar decisions are planned.

2. Propounding such issues when there is a long time to the presidential elections will generate anticipation, which should only emerge a few months before the elections, and popular involvement, quite unnecessary now, regarding something in the distant future. This will fill society with a sense of waiting and ambivalence. Such feelings will affect the momentum of governmental development programs from the point of view of the people as well as of the executive officials.

This will also result in decisions becoming bogged down or undermined. Such an atmosphere will be more dangerous for our society, which is in the throes of reconstruction in difficult economic conditions, than for other societies in similar conditions.

3. Such a situation will also create a suitable opportunity for those who were preparing for the next round of elections. [passage omitted]

4. The Constitution is a national covenant and the fruit of the blood of thousands of martyrs of the Islamic revolution. The nation has achieved this valuable result after paying an exorbitant price and enduring years of despotism. The Constitution is not a bill in the Majles or an executive affair that can easily be changed. It is the mother of all laws of the country. Upholding and safeguarding it is tantamount to protecting and preserving the boundaries of Islam, the country, and the revolution. If today we make swift and innovative changes in the Constitution for any reason, there is no guarantee that future generations will not act in a manner that is even worse.

It may be said that there is a proper way to resolve this situation, which is followed by many who pursue power.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

It has none of the dangers listed above and will also prevent a shadow cabinet from being set up! [as published]

Jobs Key Issue Discussed at Refugee Conference

LD0512173894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A conference on studying the problems of refugees living in Iran opened this afternoon at Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel.

This afternoon's session viewed problems faces by refugees. The conference is being attended by a number of experts, researchers, foreign journalists, and specialists in refugee affairs. In particular, the session discussed methods by which international non-governmental organizations can contribute to the process of creating employment for refugees.

Mohammad Hashemi, the deputy foreign affairs minister in charge of international affairs, addressed the conference and stressed the preparedness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with international non-governmental organizations dealing with the affairs of refugees.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently compiling a new law aimed at facilitating greater activity by international non-governmental organizations in Iran.

Official Reports on Status of 2.5 Million Refugees

LD0512142994 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Dec. 5, IRNA—Over 2.5 million refugees are living in residential units both in urban and rural areas throughout the country, an Interior Ministry official said Monday.

"Only 90,000 refugees are residing in 50 camps set up in various parts of the country," Mohammad Reza Rostami, deputy head of the expatriate affairs department of the Interior Ministry said.

He said that 1,180,000 Afghan refugees have so far returned home of whom 460,000 went back to Afghanistan with assistance from and under supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Rostami who accompanied a foreign delegation comprising diplomats and reporters of some European countries to Orumiyeh where they inspected some refugee camps, said that 3,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have returned home via Haj Omran border crossing in the past two and a half a months.

Swiss Ambassador to Tehran Radolf Weier Smuller, the chairman of Swiss Academy for Development (SAD), and the ambassadors of the Netherlands and Norway were among the visitors to refugees camps in Ziveh, 45 km southwest of here, where 10,800 Iraqi Kurds are living.

A total of 41,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees are residing throughout West Azarbayjan Province.

Fire Reported at Old Parliament Building

LD0612093094 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran Dec. 6, IRNA—The old building of the Iranian Parliament (National Assembly) located in Tehran's Baharestan Square, central capital, caught fire early Tuesday [6 December] morning.

According to the staff and eyewitnesses, the fire damaged 70 percent of the building and parts of the historical documents being kept there.

It is said that the fire spread from the central heating system of the building. Houshang Sharifzadeh, a deputy at Tehran's fire department, said that the case was reported to his department at 05:04 hours local time (01:34 GMT).

The fire was later brought under control thanks to the efforts of the firemen, he said, adding that historical documents and properties being kept in other sections remained unharmed.

Sharifzadeh said that experts of the department are investigating the cause of the incident.

The Tuesday morning fire in the old parliamentan building has been brought under full control, B. Javadi, in charge of the press headquarters of Tehran fire department told IRNA today. He said that only two firemen were injured in the incident, adding that repair works were under way in the areas damaged in the fire.

The old parliament building which damaged 70 percent and is among the historical monuments in the country, is situated beside the 'Mirror Hall' where renowned Iranian artist Kamal-ul-Molk had made famous paintings. The old building easily caught fire and damaged due to being old and having wooden roof, the official added.

He said that parts of the objects being kept in the store of the building as well as its administrative facilities were taken out of before fire could reach other sections. Experts of the fire department are making assessment over the amount of the damage inflicted by the fire, he said.

Pakistan

Presidential Visit to China, Relations Reviewed

'Fruitful' Outcome Seen

BK0412103094 Islamabad THE NATION in English 4 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Pak-China Relations"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, currently on a seven day visit to China, has reiterated the fact that there are close friendly ties between the two countries. He also expressed the hope that it would "contribute to a peaceful regional environment which is essential for the transformation of societies and the development of our economies." Pakistan-China friendship is in every conceivable area of economic activity, a relationship limited only by existing production parameters of the two countries. In fiscal year 1993-94 Pakistan's trade gap with China was approximately 11,614 million rupees yet there was a genuine thrust on the part of the Chinese, as reflected in repeated statements made by the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, to increase imports from Pakistan. China is perhaps the only country in the world that extended 9.1 million dollars to Pakistan in fiscal year 1991-92 and an amount of 13.8 million dollars in 1993-94 at zero interest rate. China also has several joint ventures in Pakistan, including the Heavy Engineering and Heavy Electrical Complexes at Taxila. There is also close cooperation between the two countries in the defence sector. Perhaps of great economic as well as defence significance is the Chinese joint venture in Pakistan in aircraft manufacturing, in a project called K8. Pakistan has been given the exclusive right to manufacture and sell the components of K8. It is also important to note that China does provide an alternate route to Central Asian Republics, albeit a longer one, given that the civil war in Afghanistan provides an unsafe route.

Given this background it is evident that President Leghari's visit would prove fruitful for both countries and trade agreements are likely to be signed envisaging an expansion in the existing economic relations between the two countries. Also it is important to note that China is now experimenting with open market economy and, with the upsurge in output expected as a consequence Pakistan would be well-advised to not only try to import from China in an effort to cut down on transportation costs payable for the same product bought say from the West but also try to take advantage of the big Chinese market.

PRC Nuclear Plants Hailed

BK0712091894 Islamabad THE NATION in English 7 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Sharing perceptions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Towards the end of his visit to China, President Farooq Leghari has said that Pakistan and China are opposed to international or regional hegemony. The reference to hegemonic threats is very real in the form of the new role that the US as the sole remaining superpower seems to have arrogated to itself in defining the 'new world order', and the intensification of India's efforts to translate its dream of becoming a regional superpower into reality. There has been some concern in Pakistan that China now is not as forthcoming with its support to this country on the Kashmir issue because of some readjustments in its policy towards India. Nonetheless, it is important that Beijing still talks about the need for a solution of the Kashmir problem, though in pursuance of what it regards as its self-interest it may not be prepared presently to risk its rapprochement with India over it. On the issue of missile technology that had earned both China and Pakistan the ire of the US leading to the threat of sanctions, the President has said that we have not imported M-11 technology from China. The missiles that Pakistan has acquired do not violate the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). After this clarification, the noise that some Western governments have been making against our missile programme—which comprises only a modest response to the Indian threat—should end. Instead, they should pay more attention where it is due, i.e., to the Indian missile programme which has developed into a highly sophisticated venture, and New Delhi has deployed some deadly missiles along its border with Pakistan.

China is said to be willing to sell Pakistan another nuclear power plant for the Chashma Project for which funding is to be arranged from commercial sources. In an energy-starved country like ours, that is a welcome possibility. Though a huge American investment in the energy sector is on the cards, it is in thermal generation which happens to be more expensive. The prospects of economic cooperation in trade and joint ventures that President Leghari has mentioned also look very promising on account of various factors such as geographical proximity. China's willingness to transfer technology which may not be state-of-the-art but is cheaper and efficient for the kind of projects, particularly in the field of capital goods, that this country needs, should be seriously explored. Pakistan already having fruitful experience of using Chinese technology, a continued cooperation with this tested and tried partner should be welcome and perhaps preferable to some other prospective partners that may not be all that reliable and willing to share new technologies.

'Excellent Relations' Viewed

BK0612065794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 94

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and China have for decades enjoyed excellent relations particularly in the political, diplomatic, and military spheres. These good relations have stood the test of time and are often cited as a model for interstate relations. The current official visit by Pakistan's head of state to China has not only heavily underscored the strength of the mutual ties between the two neighboring states, it has also provided an opportunity to these two friendly nations to further develop their bilateral economic relations and to expand their mutual collaboration in the important field of science and technology. During his meeting with his

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Chinese counterpart the other day, Pakistan's president called for added strength to the two countries trade relations and mutual cooperation in scientific and technological matters. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and President Jiang Zemin of China agreed to do so in order to push the bilateral relations between the two countries to a new height. Specifically, China has agreed to ask all its state-owned companies to import goods from Pakistan which has a greater potential to export various items that China has been importing from other countries. They should also serve to remove the existing trade imbalance between the two countries. At present China has surplus trade balance.

President Leghari utilized his Chinese visit to (bring) his hosts on the core foreign policy issue of Kashmir and the flagrant human rights violations being perpetrated there by the Indian occupation forces. China has all along supported Pakistan's legitimate concerns in this context. This time also the Chinese president expressed his anguish over the situation inside occupied Kashmir and hoped that the problem would be resolved through negotiations. He also called for meaningful talks to settle the dispute which is causing tension in the region. President Leghari reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir not only during his talks with the Chinese president but also during his official discussions with Chinese premier, Li Peng, and during his address at the Beijing University.

Pakistan's friendship with China spans almost the entire length of the two state's existence as independent nations. This based on shared perceptions on global and regional issues. As a result, both the countries have stood by each other through thick and thin, and Pakistan received maximum vital support from China in its hours of crisis, particularly during its wars in 1965 and 1971. Similarly, Pakistan provided consistent, sincere support to China during its days of isolation in the early days of its nationhood. It served as a window of China to establish links with the outer world. This pro-China stance of Pakistan attracted the displeasure of many a powerful state, but Pakistan stood firmly by the Chinese side as it considered the Chinese position correct. On Afghanistan, the two countries collaborated actively, and on Tiananmen Square issue, Pakistan has always expressed solidarity with the Chinese position at all international fora.

China is now making rapid strides in the economic field. With its economic reforms it is determined to become an economic superpower by the turn of the century. Given the solid platform of mutual friendship between China and Pakistan, Pakistan looks forward with every justification to enter into yet greater economic interaction with its sincere friend and neighbor China for mutually gainful collaboration.

Expansion of Trade Urged

BK0512122894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Dec 94

[Commentary by Dr. A.R. Kamal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Both the presidents of Pakistan and China have agreed to raise their cooperation in trade and technology between the two countries to new heights. Since trade balance between the two countries is tilted toward China, the Chinese president has said that in the future, Chinese corporations will meet their requirements by exporting [as heard] goods from Pakistan. The visit of the Chinese [as heard] president, therefore, can be a milestone in the economic relations between the two countries.

There are three avenues of cooperation between the two countries. First, they may increase the trade between themselves so that the market constraints on export is avoided. Second, China may provide loans, especially on projects in which it is helping Pakistan to establish. Third, the Chinese corporations and the government by investing or just helping can transfer technology. China has been involved in all three types of activities in Pakistan. However, what the president has reiterated shows that there is a greater potential in all of these areas and that the potential must be realized.

Trade between Pakistan and China has grown at a fast rate over the last four years. It has grown by 134 percent over the four-year period. However, the increase in trade has been concentrated only in imports, which increased from 5.8 billion rupees in 1989-90 to 13.2 billion rupees in 1993-94. On the other hand, exports increased marginally from 1.5 billion rupees to 1.6 billion rupees over the same period. The growth in the trade resulted in deterioration of trade deficit of Pakistan from 4.3 billion rupees to 11.6 billion rupees. Obviously, it calls for a major effort from both the parties to encourage the exports from Pakistan. It is quite encouraging that the Chinese president has promised that he will call upon the Chinese corporations to buy all such goods from Pakistan which she can offer and at present are being imported by China from the Third World countries.

Now it is up to the Pakistani businessmen to take up the challenge and generate exportable surplus of the products demanded by China at competitive prices. They must produce the products in the same specifications and quality as is demanded by the Chinese. This is a rare opportunity, and the Pakistani businessmen must exploit it.

China has been helping Pakistan on a number of projects which involve sophisticated technology. It helps Pakistan in heavy mechanical complex and heavy forge besides many other products. It also helps in the Saindak Copper Mining Project. China is also helping Pakistan in electrical heavy complex. The Chashma Nuclear Power Project is also progressing, mainly due to the Chinese help. The help is quite commendable, especially because in each of the projects, technology is being imported in its true sense, and it is not just a turnkey project. The cost of technology transfer is minimum, and benefits are substantial. No doubt, the technology may not always be that advanced as in the case of multinationals. Yet the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

actual transfer of technology far exceeds the technology ever imparted by any multinational in any part of the world. Therefore, such collaborations need to be encouraged further.

The corporations of China may also be willing to invest in Pakistan through joint ventures. This seems to have been the weakest link in the economic relationship between the two countries. Nevertheless, in the recent past, Chinese corporations have (?invited) to set up joint ventures. Since Chinese imports, especially in engineering goods, are widely used in the country, location of these plants would be quite useful as there would be sufficient demand for the products.

Pakistani businessmen must come forward and engage in the joint ventures with the Chinese firms. Considering the past record of Chinese, there is a high probability that technology will be transferred by these corporations. The trade, technology, and economic development between the two countries would continue to grow on the pattern observed in Pakistan with the difference that Pakistan will be able to export more goods. Moreover, trade may also gets a boost through land route. Silk Route can be effectively used for trade between the two countries. The route can also be used for transit trade and Pakistani trade with Central Asian republics. As a matter of fact, a few months back, both Pakistan and China have agreed to explore the possibility and in the near future it may materialize.

Trade through Silk Route would especially help the poor communities of the northern part of Pakistan and the relatively poorer province of Xinjiang of China. Therefore, the trade between the two would also result in the social integration of the poor communities. The fact that Pakistan and China have agreed to promote trade and technological cooperation and that China has agreed to reduce the trade gap between the two countries is a very good omen for Pakistan. However, this would be possible only if Pakistani businessmen take the challenge.

Further Reportage on President's Beijing Visit

WA1205170794

For reportage on Pakistani President Leghari's visit to Beijing, including talks with Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 5 December CHINA Daily Report and subsequent issues.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.